

TREATY WITH THE FLORIDA INDIANS.

**LETTER**

FROM

**THE SECRETARY OF WAR,**

TRANSMITTING

*The Information required by a Resolution of the House of Representatives,  
of the 5th ultimo,*

IN RELATION TO

THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE

**Florida Indians, &c. &c.**

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FEBRUARY 6, 1826.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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WASHINGTON:

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1871 CONGRESS  
1st Session

TREATY WITH THE FLORIDA INDIANS

LETTER

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

AND INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR



## DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

February 1, 1826.

SIR: Pursuant to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 5th ultimo, directing the Secretary of War "to communicate to that House the instructions to the Commissioners for negotiating the treaty with the Florida Indians; the extent of the reserves made to certain Chiefs: the amount of money paid under the treaty; the objects for which it was paid; the present situation of the Indians; and the complaints, if any, against the said treaty; with any other information, or correspondence, touching the condition of the Florida Indians at this time," I have honor to report, herewith, documents numbered from 1 to 48, inclusive, which furnish all the information required, except as to the extent of the reservations, and the amount of money paid under the treaty, and the objects for which it was paid.

The reservations are four in number, and are those which are provided for by the treaty; and the amount paid under the treaty is \$87,068 21. The objects for which this sum was paid, are those for which the treaty stipulates, viz: For farming utensils, cattle, hogs, &c. \$6,000; for annuity, \$5,000; for rations, \$65,700; for improvements, \$4,500; for transportation, \$2,000; for blacksmith and school, \$2,000; and, of the sum of \$5,000, appropriated for running the lines. (this work not being yet completed) \$1,868 21.

By reference to the correspondence communicated, it will be seen that a further provision, in two sums, one of \$2,000, and the other of \$5,000, has been authorized, to save these Indians from starving, but no part of this provision has been yet drawn for. When it shall be, if at all, the payments will be made from the contingent fund of the Indian Department.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BARBOUR.

*The SPEAKER*

*of the House of Representatives.*



## No. 1.

*MINUTES of Proceedings of James Gadsden and Bernardo Sequi, appointed by the President of the United States to hold a Treaty with the Florida Indians.*

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DEPARTMENT OF WAR, 7th April, 1823.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to enclose you a commission from the President of the United States, appointing you Commissioners to hold a treaty with the Florida Indians.

The object to be accomplished by the proposed treaty, is the concentration of all the Florida Indians at some suitable point within that Territory, and the country south of Charlotte harbor, and the river of that name which empties into it, has been designated for the purpose. Your efforts, therefore, will be directed to the attainment of this object. Should there not be a sufficiency of good lands for the accommodation of the Indians in that part of the Peninsula designated, you are authorized to fix the bound north of Charlotte harbor and river, so as to take in as much of the country between them and Tampa bay, as, in your judgment, may be necessary to give the Indians enough of good lands, and sufficient space, considering their habits of life; leaving the conditions to your sound discretion. As it is desirable that the treaty should be held as soon as practicable, you will as early as convenient make your arrangements for that purpose. Confiding in your prudence, that the treaty will be held with the least possible expense, it is deemed unnecessary to give you any particular instructions on that point. The principal article of expense will probably be the issue of provisions to the Indians while treating with them. To avoid the delay which a correspondence between the Commissioners for the purpose would occasion, Mr. Sequi being most convenient to the Indians, will fix on the time and place for holding the treaty, after consulting Mr. Hernandez, the Delegate from the Territory, and notify Col. Gadsden, the other Commissioner, thereof. Mr. Sequi will also ascertain the quality of provisions that will probably be required, and issue his requisition for the same, on the Commissary of Subsistence at St. Mark's, if the treaty should be held at that place, or contiguous to it; or on the Commissary at St. Augustine, if the treaty should be held there or near it; who will be ordered to obey such requisitions, and charge the amount to the Indian Department. The enclosed circular will be complied with in issuing the provisions, to which, as there has in some instances been great irregularity, I particularly call your attention. The Indian Agent, Col. Gad. Humphreys, who is stationed for the present at St. Mark's, is instructed to obey your orders on all points connected with the proposed treaty, and to prepare the Indians to meet the Commissioners at the time and

place which may be fixed upon for holding it. For the funds which you find necessary to defray the expenses attending the negotiation, you will draw on this Department. Your compensation will be at the rate of eight dollars (\$8;) and that of the Secretary to the Commission, (whom you are authorized to appoint,) at the rate of five dollars (\$5) per diem, for the time actually engaged. The payment will be made on your certificate of honor, specifying the time that you and the Secretary have been actually engaged. Your certificate, in like manner, will be a necessary voucher for the presents, should there be any distributed under your authority. The treaty, when made, will be forwarded to this Department.

I have the honor to be,  
Your most obedient serv't,  
J. C. CALHOUN.

Col. J. GADSDEN, and BER. SEQUI, Esq.

*Commissioners to hold a Treaty with the Florida Indians.*

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*Copy of a Circular to Commissioners to hold Indian Treaties.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, 11th September, 1818.

GENTLEMEN: The number and importance of the treaties to be held this year, and the great amount of rations, which must necessarily be issued to the Indians while attending at the treaties, render it necessary that some system should be adopted to govern such large disbursements. I have, therefore, to request, that you will designate the Indian Agent, if he should be present, or in case he is not, some suitable person, who shall ascertain the number and component parts of rations daily issued. The manner of issuing and certifying, to conform, as near as may be, to the mode which prevails in issuing the rations to soldiers, and at the conclusion of the treaty to be presented to you for your approval. Where the rations have not been issued by the Contractor for the District, (now Commissary,) the contract and the conditions on which the rations were furnished, must be certified to this Department.

I have, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

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DEPARTMENT OF WAR, 8th April, 1823.

SIR: Colonel James Gadsden, of Charleston, South Carolina, and yourself, have been appointed by the President, Commissioners to hold a treaty with the Indians, and I herewith enclose your instructions.

Since writing the instructions, Colonel Gadsden has arrived in Washington, and a copy of them with the commission has been de-

livered to him. He will write to you and inform you where you may address him.

I have, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

BERNARDO SEQUI, Esq.

*Commissioner, &c. &c.*

*St. Augustine, Florida.*

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WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

9th April, 1823.

SIR: I have this day accepted of an appointment as Commissioner associated with you, to negotiate with the Florida Indians. I shall leave this in a few days for Charleston, South Carolina, where I shall await your notification as to the time and place fixed on for holding the treaty contemplated. I take the liberty of expressing a preference for St. Augustine, should that place, in your opinion, be considered equally eligible for the objects to be accomplished with the other points suggested. At all events, I should be in favor of assembling in the vicinity of a Military Post; as the expenses of the mission, to say nothing of convenience otherwise, would, necessarily be less, from the supplies being on the spot, than they would be at an interior position.

Yours, &c.

J. GADSDEN,

*Commissioner, &c.*

BERNARDO SEQUI, Esq.

*St. Augustine,*

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ST. AUGUSTINE, EAST FLORIDA,

May 1st, 1823.

DEAR SIR: I have received your favor of the 9th ultimo, informing me that you have accepted the appointment in conjunction with me, respecting a treaty to be made with the Indians of this Territory. I have, also, accepted the appointment, and as you desire to know the time and place when we ought to meet, I think that at this time, it would be most convenient to meet in this city, where I expect to see you shortly, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements.

I remain,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

BERNARDO SEQUI.

Col. JAMES GADSDEN,

*Charleston, S. C.*



May 17. James Gadsden and Bernardo Sequi met, agreeably to appointment, when it was determined, that it would be necessary to consult with some of the Chiefs of the Florida Tribes of Indians before the time and place of meeting could be judiciously designated. Expresses were despatched to Meconopy and others, inviting them to an interview with the Commissioners in St. Augustine, as early as practicable.

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*Extract.*

ST. AUGUSTINE, 26th May, 1823.

SIR: I arrived here a few days since, and have consulted with Mr. Sequi as to the preliminary measures necessary to accomplish the objects of our mission. The absence of the Indian Agent, who is in Pensacola, and the difficulty of communicating speedily with him, has necessarily compelled the Commissioners to open a direct intercourse with the Chiefs and Warriors of the Florida Indians. We have, therefore, despatched a messenger for Meconopy, one of the Chiefs of the Seminole Tribe, and on his arrival will determine the proper time and place of assembling the Indians. I apprehend it will be inconvenient for them to meet us in Council before their crops, indispensable to their subsistence, are gathered, and the delay, if necessary, cannot result in any inconvenience to the country at large, as, at all events, the objects of the mission may be accomplished before the meeting, and in full time to obtain the ratification of the Senate. I will thank you, however, to transmit me from the records of the War Department, a copy of General Jackson's communication on the views of the Indians, as derived from the talk held at Pensacola, and, particularly, the document containing his report of the Indian population in the Territory; these may be important to us.

Yours, &c.

J. GADSDEN,

*Commissioner, &c.*

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN.

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June 4th, 1823. Meconopy and some of the Chiefs and Warriors of the Florida tribes of Indians met the Commissioners J. Gadsden and B. Sequi at the Governor's office in St. Augustine, at which meeting, the views of the National Government with regard to the Indians of Florida were generally explained, and the Chiefs present were requested to designate the most convenient spot and the earliest period when they could meet the Commissioners in Council, to listen to the talk from the President of the United States, as to the disposition to be made of their nation.

The 5th of September. And the crossing place on Moultrie creek in the vicinity of St. Augustine was concluded on; and the Chiefs pre-

sent obligated themselves to meet with the other Chiefs and Warriors of their nation at the time and place appointed.

We, the undersigned, Chiefs and Warriors of the Seminole tribe of Indians, obligate ourselves, with our tribes and as many Chiefs and Warriors as the Seminole tribe may delegate to meet James Gadsden and Bernardo Sequi, Commissioners appointed on the part of the United States, to listen to a talk from the President of the United States, on the 5th day of September next, with a view to the establishing perpetual peace between the white and red men of Florida. In witness whereof, we have subscribed our names and affixed our marks.

MICONOPY, or Pond Governor, his x mark.

OUSELMATCHE, or Jumper, his x mark.

Witness, HORATIO S. DEXTER,  
SAMUEL FRY.

St. AUGUSTINE, *June 4th*, 1823.

St. AUGUSTINE, *6th June*, 1823.

SIR: Bernardo Sequi and myself, Commissioners for holding a treaty with the Florida Indians, have, after consultation with some of the principal Chiefs of the Seminole tribe, fixed on the vicinity of St. Augustine, and the 5th day of September next, as the time and place for the proposed meeting. The Seminole tribe will be advised of this determination by the Commissioners direct, and in obedience to instructions transmitted to you from the War Department, we have to request that you will make the necessary arrangements and prepare the Indians living in Florida, West of the Suwaney river, to meet the Commissioners at the time and place before mentioned.

The assistant commissary of subsistence at St. Mark's will issue, on your requisition, such quantity of provision as may be necessary to supply the Indians, on their journey to this place.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN,

*Commissioner, &c.*

Col. G. HUMPHREYS,

*Indian Agent St. Marks.*

St. AUGUSTINE, *7th June*, 1823.

SIR: B. Sequi and myself, Commissioners for holding a treaty with the Florida Indians have been instructed by the Department of War to make requisitions upon yourself, or the assistant commissary at this place for such provisions as may be wanted on the occasion. We have designated the vicinity of St. Augustine as the place; and

on the 5th of September next, as the time of meeting. The Indians in the vicinity of St. Mark's and West of the Appalachicola River, may, therefore, need provisions on their journey to this place, which you will be good enough to issue upon the requisition of the agent, Col. Humphreys, or, in his absence at the time, on that of the interpreter, Mr. Richards. A supply merely sufficient to subsist the Indians to St. Augustine, will alone be necessary; they will be provided for otherwise from the subsistence department at this place. Will you be good enough to supply the expresses with rations sufficient to subsist them on their return to St. Augustine.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN,  
Commissioner, &c.

*The assistant commissary of subsistence, St. Mark's.*

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St. AUGUSTINE, 7th June, 1823.

SIR: Enclosed is a copy of a communication addressed to Colonel Humphreys at St. Mark's. Should he be absent from that post or the nation, you will be good enough to attend to its contents. The Commissioners will depend upon Col. Humphreys and yourself for having the Indians West of the Suwaney river assembled at the time and place concluded on. You will acknowledge, by the bearer, the receipt of this letter.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN,  
Commissioner, &c.

S. RICHARDS,  
*Indian Interpreter, Appalachicola.*

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St. AUGUSTINE, 8th June, 1823.

SIR: Enclosed are letters to Col. Humphreys, the assistant commissary of subsistence at St. Mark's and Mr. Richards, Indian Interpreter. You will oblige me by having that addressed to Mr. Richards, sent to the place of his residence on the Appalachicola or in the nation, as it relates to public business of considerable interest to this country. The express with his companion could not be engaged to go beyond St. Mark's, you will therefore dismiss them with a receipt for the despatches delivered, and will confer a favor on me by any facilities afforded them on their return. The letters addressed to Pensacola, I will thank you to have transmitted by the first opportunity which may offer.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN,  
Commissioner, &c.

*The Commanding officer, St. Mark's.*

ST. AUGUSTINE, *June 9th*, 1823.

SIR: Enclosed are copies of communications from Governor Duval, Col. Walton, and myself, to Col. Humphreys, Indian Agent, which you will be good enough to have transmitted to him at St. Mark's. Should Col. Humphreys be absent from that post, you will open the letters, addressed to him and be governed by the instructions they contain.

I send you likewise copies of letters addressed to you direct from Governor Duval and Col. Walton, the originals of which have been transmitted through a different channel.

The Commissioners appointed to treat with the Florida Indians depend upon Col. Humphreys and yourself, assembling those residing West of the Suwaney river at the time and place appointed, and expect every assistance will be afforded by both of you to accomplish the objects of the mission.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN,

*Commissioner, &c.*

S. RICHARDS,

*Indian Interpreter, Appalachicola.*ST. AUGUSTINE, *10th June*, 1823.

SIR: Mr. Sequi and myself have been commissioned to treat with the Florida Indians, as to their future location in this territory. Understanding that the agent Col. Humphreys is absent from St. Mark's, we are somewhat apprehensive that he will not receive the instructions from the War Department, in time to assemble the Indians at the period and place designated.

Doubting in some degree likewise the certainty of the conveyance to St. Mark's, by the only express we could employ in this place, we have taken the liberty, as a precautionary measure, of enclosing a communication through you to Mr. Richards, with a request that it may be transmitted to him as early as possible by some Indian runner. Mr. Richards resides on the Appalachicola river, and I believe at the Ochese Bluffs. You will excuse the imposition on your goodness; but we feel assured it will afford you pleasure in attending to a request, the accomplishment of which is so intimately connected with business of no ordinary interest.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN,

*Commissioner, &c.*

JOHN CROWELL, Esq.

*Indian Agent, Creek Agency.*



*Colonel Gadsden to the Secretary of War.*

ST. AUGUSTINE, 11th June, 1823.

SIR: Since writing you on the 20th ultimo, Mr. Sequi and myself have had a consultation with several of the principal Chiefs of the Seminole Tribe, and have fixed on the vicinity of St. Augustine, and the 15th of September next, as the place and time of holding the treaty. An earlier period could not have been selected, without serious injury to the Indians, by trespassing on the harvest season, and without precluding the possibility of a general attendance, from the dispersed condition of the Florida Indians, occupying a territory of more than 500 miles in extent.

The absence of the Agent from St. Mark's, and the uncertainty of letters addressed to Pensacola being received by him in time to accomplish the views of the Commissioners, have necessarily forced us to communicate direct with the different Tribes, notifying them to attend at the time and place designated. Expresses have been despatched in every direction, and the Indians, generally, have been distinctly impressed with the idea, that a treaty of amity, settlement, and limits, conformable to the views of the American Government, would be concluded; and that those Tribes who neglect the invitation, or obstinately refuse to attend, will be considered as embraced within the compact formed, and forced to comply with its provisions. You have, probably, been advised, or may collect from the various reports made to the War Department on Indian Affairs in Florida, that there is not the most friendly disposition prevailing between the different Tribes, and that there is quite a division of opinion among them as to their concentration and location. The Indians occupying the Peninsula, (it is believed,) are pleased with the selection (south) made by the Executive, while those west of the Suwaney river, and, particularly, within the Appalachicola District, are most attached to their own Country, and would prefer, it is said, even an emigration west of the Mississippi, to a concentration south of Tampa Bay, as contemplated. At the head of the discontented is Eneomatla, an enterprising, daring savage, and if not the only, among the principal instigators of the Seminole war. These conflicting interests and opinions will be the chief difficulty the Commissioners will have to encounter in effecting a treaty. And, altho' there is no doubt as to the ability of the National Government, of dictating and enforcing the terms desired, a resort to that alternative, as a matter of policy, may be questionable, where the views of the Executive may be effected otherwise amicably. Magnanimity would dictate the latter course, however necessary an exercise of power may be in extreme cases. It has been thought proper to present these facts to your consideration, suggesting the policy of additional instructions to the Commissioners, conditionally authorizing them to provide for these Tribes that may be disposed to emigrate west. It is possible, that all the Florida Indians might be induced to remove, and if so, an object so vitally important in a national or territorial point of view will be gained. Florida, as a maritime district



of the American Union, is peculiarly exposed; possessing more than 900 miles of sea coast, with capacious Bays or Estuaries, easy of access; and her good to her inferior lands bearing but a small proportion, and, consequently, unsusceptible of a dense population, she must ever be as internally weak, as she is externally assailable. An Indian population, under these circumstances, connected with another class of population, which will inevitably predominate in Florida, must necessarily add to natural weaknesses, and endanger the security of one of the most exposed, but most important sections of the Union. It is useless to enlarge on the policy of removing a class of savages from where they may prove dangerous, to where they would be comparatively harmless. Should the Executive approve of the view taken on this subject, it will be necessary for the guidance of the Commissioners, minutely to designate the district of country west, which may be offered in exchange for the Territory abandoned. In connection with the concentration of the Indians south of Tampa Bay, there are many subjects to which your early attention may with propriety be invited. The Indians, hitherto, have been formidable in Florida, and the change of flags has not removed from the citizens all apprehensions, or all recollections of former impressions. The location south is thought by some injudicious, and though a large majority concur with the Executive, in the views taken on the subject, all agree that a Military post within, or near the limits of the nation, will be indispensable. The Indians have long been in the habit of keeping up an intercourse and active trade with the Cuba fishermen, and to this cause, principally, has been ascribed the encouragement hitherto given to absconding negroes, and the savage depredations committed on cattle, estates, &c. There is no difficulty in correcting the evil hereafter; but the presence of a military force will be necessary to the result; and the sooner the position is selected and occupied, the sooner will the excitements to an illicit traffic be removed. The first impressions are with the savage the most permanent; and a judicious location of an adequate force, simultaneous with the concentration of the Indians, cannot but have the happy effect of obtaining such an entire control, as to render them perfectly subservient to the views of Government. From conversations held with many, who have explored partially the western coast of Florida, I am inclined to think, that the Bay of Tampa presents the most eligible site for a military post, and offers many favorable and healthful positions. More ample information on the subject, however, shall be collected previous to the accomplishment of the object of our mission, and furnished the War Department in time to be acted on, should the occupation of the position suggested be approved.

Will you be good enough to issue orders to the commanding officer at St. Augustine to furnish the Commissioners a Military guard, issue lead and powder, and afford such other facilities as may be thought calculated to promote the objects of the mission. As the want of appropriations for holding the Treaty must necessarily limit the presents, (always expected on such occasions,) the propriety of

sending 8 or 10 rifles to be distributed, as a particular mark of distinction to some of the principal Chiefs, is suggested to your consideration.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN.

The Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,  
*Secretary of War.*

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ST. AUGUSTINE, June 14, 1823.

SIR: I embrace the earliest opportunity of informing you, that the Commissioners appointed to conclude a Treaty with the Florida Tribes of Indians, have fixed on the Crossing Place, on Moultrie Creek, about 3 or 4 miles from St. Augustine, and on the 5th of September next, as the place and time of holding the meeting. It is impossible, for the want of estimates of population, to be confided in, to state with certainty the number of individuals who may assemble. Should you, however, have in deposit, thirty days rations for fifteen hundred persons, you will be amply prepared, in my opinion, to meet all contingencies. I am informed, that the Indians generally prefer the fresh, to the salt meats usually issued; it would, therefore, be desirable to have as large a proportion of the former, as would under your instructions be admissible. Moultrie Creek is navigable for boats to a Mr. Garey's, where the provisions may be, deposited, being within half a mile of the encamping ground selected. I will at any day, however, previous to that of our meeting, (should you be so disposed,) accompany you to the spot, and will with pleasure afford you any facilities in my power to the accomplishment of the duties of furnishing the Indians devolving on you.

Yours,

J. GADSDEN.

*Commissioner.*

Lt. H. BROWN,  
*A. C. S. U. S. Army.*

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DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

June 30th, 1823.

SIR: Your letter of the 11th inst. has been received. I agree with you as to the importance to the Territory of Florida, of removing the Indians West of the Mississippi: but there are no lands which the Government can assign to them in lieu of those they may abandon, as all the public lands in that direction, that could be so disposed of, are occupied either by the Chocktaws or Cherokees. The Government is, however, willing to encourage the removal of the Florida Indians, as far as it can, and if all, or any part of them, should be disposed to emigrate, and join the Cherokees or Chocktaws,

or any other tribes farther West, that may be willing to receive them, you are authorized to include a stipulation in the proposed Treaty, on the subject, allowing them, in the event of their emigration, what may be deemed by the Commissioners a fair consideration for the lands relinquished by them in Florida, and agreeing, on the part of the United States, to pay the expenses attending their removal. Your suggestions relative to the establishment of a Military Post will receive due attention. Orders will be given agreeably to your request, through the Adjutant General, to the commanding officer at St. Augustine, to furnish the Commissioners with a military guard.

The rifles required for presents at the treaty, will be furnished through the Ordnance Department. The President has directed that the Governor of the Territory, as is usual, be associated with the Commissioners at the proposed treaty, and he will join you accordingly and aid in the negotiation. He was not put upon the Commission originally, on account of his absence from the Territory. The Indian agent has been ordered to repair to St. Augustine, where he will be stationed until further orders, which will enable the commissioners to avail themselves of his services.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.

Col. JAMES GADSDEN, *Commissioner, &c.*

FORT ST. MARK'S, *July 2d, 1823.*

SIR: The express, with letters for Colonel Humphreys, Indian Agent, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, and Mr. Richards, Indian Interpreter, are received. Colonel Humphreys is here, and immediately took his letter. I gave him also Mr. Richards's, which he sent off this morning by express. The letters for Pensacola will be forwarded to-morrow morning.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. C. HUTTER.

Col. JAMES GADSDEN,

*Commissioner, &c. St. Augustine, (E. F.)*

FORT ST. MARK'S, (Flor.)

*July 3d, 1823.*

SIR: Your letter of the 6th ultimo, notifying me of the time and place appointed for holding the Treaty with the Florida Indians, reached me by express on the 1st inst. I have called upon the chiefs West of the Suwany, to assemble here on the 15th, at which time I

shall communicate to them this information, and make the necessary arrangements for their meeting the Commissioners at the time and place you have mentioned.

Your obedient servant,

G. HUMPHREYS.

*Indian Agent.*

Col. JAMES GADSDEN, *Commissioner, &c.*

ST. AUGUSTINE, July 29th, 1823.

SIR: Your letters of the 14th and 30th June, with the accompanying public documents, have been received. Our express to the Western part of the Territory of Florida has just returned. He communicates to the Commissioners the intelligence of the arrival of the Indian Agent, Col. Humphreys, at St. Mark's, who will use all exertions to assemble the Indians at the time and place designated. No efforts will be wanting on our part, to promote the views of the Executive, as to the concentration of the Florida Indians.

Your obedient servant,

J. GADSDEN.

*Commissioner, &c.*

The Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,  
*Secretary of War.*

*Continuation of Proceedings of Wm. P. Duval, James Gadsden, and Bernardo Sequi, appointed by the President of the United States, to hold a Treaty with the Florida Indians.*

July 15th.—William P. Duval, as Governor of the Territory of Florida, associated, by order of the President of the United States, with J. Gadsden and Bernardo Sequi, to hold a Treaty with the Indians, accepts of his appointment, and takes his seat as presiding Commissioner.

July 29th.—Commissioners met at the Governor's office, when George Murray was proposed as Secretary to the Commission, and elected accordingly. The presiding Commissioner requested to notify him of his appointment.

ST. AUGUSTINE, July 29th, 1823.

The Commissioners appointed to treat with the Seminole Indians have directed me to inform you, that they have appointed you their Secretary; and that they expect you will attend, not only to the duties as such, connected with the contemplated Treaty to be held



near this city, on the 5th September next, but that you will go to the place selected for the Indians to assemble, and mark out the spot for the Commissioners, and attend to the necessary arrangements for the convenience of transacting their business, &c. &c.

Your compensation will be five dollars per day, until the business of the commission shall be completed.

Yours, with high respect,

WILLIAM P. DUVAL,

*President of the Board of Commissioners.*

GEORGE MURRAY, Esq.

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ST. AUGUSTINE, July 31st, 1823.

SIR: As the component parts of the soldier's ration would not be altogether unacceptable to the Indians, it is the opinion of the commissioners that the smaller parts, such as soap, candles, whiskey, &c. may, in a degree, be dispensed with, and that corn and rice, in proportion of the one-fourth of the former to the latter, may be advantageously substituted for fifty barrels of the flour contained in your estimate. One-fourth of the meat part of the ration ought to be in good salt pork; and a barrel of prime pork, a barrel of beef, thirty good hams, and 100 lbs. of good lard, will be wanted for the use of the Commissioners.

The bean part of the ration, on re-consideration, we would prefer retaining: the salt to be increased to fifty bushels, and the other items of your estimate reduced thus: 500 gallons of whiskey, 200 lbs. soap, 100 lbs. candles, 10 galls. vinegar, and the value of the balance of the vinegar (290 galls.) to be appropriated to the purchase of molasses. The Commissioners will require five officer's tents, with flies and poles complete, and six camp kettles, and as many tin pans, which you will be good enough to procure, if not to be had from the depot at St. Augustine.

With respect, your servant,

WM. P. DUVAL.

*Commissioner, &c.*

Lt. BROWN, U. S. Army.

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DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

July 31st, 1823.

GENTLEMEN: I have received a letter from General Jackson, in which he states, that there will probably be some difficulty in concentrating the Indians South, as contemplated by your instructions, and suggests that they may be advantageously located "on both sides of the Appalachicola, extending West ten miles, East to Ocklockoney River, and South within five miles of the Ochesee Bluffs, so as to leave



a free communication between East and West Florida, crossing the Appalachicola at the Ocheese Bluffs." The position suggested by General Jackson, is believed to be the next most advantageous to the one selected: and if the Indians cannot be concentrated on the latter, rather than the Treaty should fail, it would be advisable to concentrate them on the point suggested by the General, and you are accordingly authorized to do so, if it should be found impossible to carry the first instructions into effect. The General also suggested the propriety of a movement of troops to Tampa Bay. It is possible such a movement would have a favorable influence on the negotiation, but as it is now too late to make it with that view, I hope you will experience no inconvenience from it.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.

Col. JAMES GADSDEN, BERNARDO SEQUI, Esq.

and His Excel'y Wm. P. DUVAL,

*Commissioners to treat with the Florida Indians.*

*August 26th.*—The Commissioners met at the Governor's Quarters, when the following letter was addressed to Capt. John Erwing, commanding the troops of the United States at this post:

ST. AUGUSTINE, *August 26th, 1823.*

SIR: The Commissioners appointed to treat with the Indians in this Territory, have been authorized, by the Secretary of War to make requisitions upon the commanding officer at St. Augustine, for a military guard, and any other facilities they may require from the command. I have, therefore, to request that a guard, to be composed of an officer and twenty-five men, furnished with the necessary camp equipage for themselves, may be ordered to proceed, on Friday next, to the situation selected for holding the treaty on Moultrie Creek. 'Tis desirable that two of the men detailed for this service, should be carpenters. You are also requested to furnish the following articles, if in your power to do so, viz: One boat, with oars and awning, four spades, four axes, one augur, (inch and quarter.) one one inch, one half-inch, two hatchets, two hand-saws, one cross-cut saw, one jack-plane, two hammers, five wall-tents, poles and pins, two common tents, poles and pins. These articles you will please deliver to the officer detailed for this service, who will be requested to communicate with the President of the Board, before he proceeds to the encampment.

Yours, respectfully,

WM. P. DUVAL,

*President of Commissioners.*

Captain JOHN ERWING,

*Commanding Officer, St. Francis Barracks, St. Augustine.*

## REPLY.

ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS,

27th August, 1823.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 26th instant.

On reference to the annexed copy of my instructions from the General commanding the army, you will perceive that I am only directed to furnish, upon the requisition of the Commissioners, a guard to attend them at the place of meeting. In obedience to that order, and in compliance with your requisition, so far as the strength of this garrison will permit, a subaltern with one sergeant, one corporal, and twelve privates, will be ordered to proceed, on Friday next, to the situation selected on Moultrie Creek. I regret, sir, that the number of men under my command fit for duty, is so small as to prevent me from furnishing the complement you require. With regard to the tools, &c. &c., mentioned in your communication. I beg leave to state, that those belonging to the post are under the immediate charge of the Quartermaster. Lieut. Brown, who has received instructions from the Chief of his Department to answer the requisitions of the Commissioners.

I am, Sir, with great respect. &c.

J. ERWING, *Captain, &c.*

To his Excellency WILLIAM P. DUVAL,  
*Governor of Florida, and President of the Commissioners.*

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27th.—The Commissioners met at the Governor's Quarters, when the following letter was addressed to Captain Erwing, and his reply received:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of date.

In the requisitions made on you in my letter of the 26th, the Commissioners were guided by what they deemed necessary "facilities to their operations," and did not apprehend that the liberal constructions of your orders could, at this period, throw any obstacles in the way of a compliance with their wishes. As the proper judges of what was necessary, they have mentioned to you the most reduced guard which would answer their purposes; and they have again, through me, to repeat their request that the number of men, including carpenters, &c. may be furnished. The requisition for tents, boats, tools, &c. was made on you in consequence of an intimation from Lieut. Brown, as understood at the time, that those articles were in your possession, and that to you must application be made.

I have to request, as the period of meeting is approaching, that you will inform me as early as possible this evening, whether our requisition, as contained in my letter of the 26th, can be complied with.

Respectfully,  
WM. P. DUVAL,  
*President of the Commissioners.*

Captain J. ERWING,  
*Commanding Officer,  
St. Francis Barracks, St. Augustine.*

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*Answer.*

ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS, August 27, 1823.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date.

It was far from my intention, in the letter I addressed to you this morning, to throw any unnecessary "obstacles in the way of a compliance with the wishes of the Commissioners," or to put any other than a *liberal* construction on the orders I have received. Taking into consideration the situation of the post committed to my charge; the number and disposition of its garrison, and the expected assemblage of a large body of Indians, in its neighborhood, I stated to you the largest number of men that, in my honest opinion, could be spared from this command, in accordance with the spirit of my orders. In order, however, to prevent any delay in the operation of the Commissioners, and to convince them of my desire to afford them all the facilities required by the most *liberal constructions* of my orders, the guard, including carpenters, mentioned in your letter of the 26th, will be sent to its destination at the time appointed. I send with this for your information, a morning report of the Garrison, with an explanatory statement.

All the camp equipage, tools, and Quartermaster's stores at the post, are under charge of the Quartermaster, and reported by him to the Chief of his department. It did not occur to me when I last wrote, that my order would be necessary to authorize their delivery in your requisition. I shall, therefore, give an order to Lieutenant Brown, early in the morning, to furnish out of the public stores at this post, the articles required in your letter of the 26th instant, and in the event of any being deficient, to report the same to you.

I am, sir, very respectfully, &c. &c.

J. ERWING,  
*Capt. 4th Art. Commanding.*

To his Excellency WM. P. DUVAL,  
*President of the Board of Commissioners.*

28th. Colonel Humphreys the Indian Agent, arrived in St. Augustine and reported to the Commissioners, that the Western Chiefs and Warriors, to the number of three hundred and fifty, with Neomathla at their head, would arrive at the encamping ground on Moultrie Creek. in the course of the next day; in consequence of which, the following letter was addressed to Lieutenant H. Brown Assistant Commissary of Subsistence:

ST. AUGUSTINE, *August 28, 1823.*

SIR: I have the honor of informing you that Colonel Humphreys, the Indian Agent of this Territory, has arrived in St. Augustine, and brings intelligence that the Indians from the West, will arrive at the camping ground to-morrow evening. The Board of Commissioners appointed to treat with the Indians, therefore wish you to forward the provisions to the camp as early as possible in the morning, and issue such rations as Colonel Humphreys may direct.

With respect,

WM. P. DUVAL,

*President of the Commissioners.*

Lieutenant BROWN,  
*United States' Army.*

On Saturday the 30th of August, Colonel Gadsden repaired to the encampment on Moultrie creek, where the guard required, had previously arrived. Neomathla, with the Western Tribes, had arrived the day before. On the 2d of September, Miconope and Jumper, with the Southern Tribes, reached the encampment.

Friday the 5th. The Commissioners all present, but as the Indians had some preliminary matters to settle among themselves, the talk was postponed until the 6th.

6th. At eleven o'clock the Chiefs Neomathla, John Blunt, Tuski Hago, Eeunchationico, Hicks, Mulatto King, and other Chiefs and Warriors, to the number of more than seventy, met the Commissioners, in council, when, after Neomathla had been declared by Jumper, to be the head of the Florida Indians, which was assented by the Indians present, Colonel Gadsden delivered the following talk:

"FRIENDS AND BROTHERS: General Jackson told Echemathla, two years ago, that the Americans had purchased Florida from Spain, and that the President of the United States would send Commissioners to speak his mind to the Seminoles. The President has now appointed Governor Duval, Mr. Sequi, and myself, these Commissioners; listen then to the talk of your Great Father, the President of the United States; listen to what he has commanded us to say to you.

"Many years ago, false prophets and evil disposed men, from across the water, deluded the Creek nation; the young warriors became mad, and the old men forgetful. They raised the Red Sticks in war, and inhumanly massacred women and children. General Jackson, with his warriors, marched into the nation, subdued the deluded, and made friends with those who buried the tomahawk, and sued for peace. Your Father the President of the United States, like a kind parent, forgot this disobedience, and placing his Creek brothers by themselves, they are now a rich, happy, and friendly people. Some of the Red Sticks, however, fled into Florida and, uniting with absconding negroes, built a fort on the Appalachicola. The fort was destroyed by the Americans, and with it, hundreds of red men and negroes were slain. Four years ago, these same Red Sticks, with the false prophets, McQueen and Francis, and bad men from across the water, poisoned the minds of some of your warriors. Fort Hughes, on the Flint river, was attacked, and a boat with sick men, and women and infants, taken on the Appalachicola, and their scalps borne away in triumph. General Jackson was again ordered to march into your country, and you all know, that he burnt your towns, destroyed your crops, and, at Mekasuky and Suwaney, punished the madness of your men. He could have pursued the fugitives this side of the Suwaney, and have driven you into the ocean, but having taken on the prophets and white men, who deluded you, he punished the guilty, and spared the innocent.

"FRIENDS AND BROTHERS: Your Father, the President, is willing to forget all that has passed. He is willing to bury the tomahawk, and extend to you the arm of friendship. He would that his red and white children should live in peace. To secure this, he will do for you what he has done for the Creeks. He will not permit you to be scattered all over Florida. He will place you by yourselves, mark your boundaries, protect your property, prevent his white men and the Creeks from disturbing you; separate you from false prophets, and bad men from across the water; place an agent among you, to let him know your wants; educate your children, and give you those articles of clothing, iron, lead, powder, &c., of which you stand in need. We hear there are among you, some of the old Red Sticks, that belong to the Creek nation. They have lands given them above, and must return to their nation, unless you who were born in, and belong to Florida, will receive them. If so, they must live on the same lands with the Florida Indians. You will think on this subject, and when you next meet the Commissioners, let them know your wishes. You must likewise come prepared to give us the names of the different chiefs, the names and numbers of the different towns, where those towns are situated, and the population of each, that your Father, the President, may know how much lands you may require, and the quantity of merchandise that will be necessary for you.

"FRIENDS AND BROTHERS: More than 300 years ago, the white men lived across the great deep *East*. The Seminoles, then a tribe



of the Creek nation, hunted a long way to the West, across the great water where the sun sets. The Yemassee then inhabited Florida. Some two hundred years ago, more than one hundred years before the Seminoles ever saw Florida, the Spaniards conquered and made peace with the Yemassee. They divided the country between them, and lived like friends and brothers. The Spaniards then had forts, towns, and cultivated fields, at St. Augustine, Suwaney, St. Pedro, or Chatahatchie, Talahassee, and St. Mark's. Ferdinand de Soto, a Spanish chief, long before the Seminoles ever saw Florida, landed at the Bay of Tampa, and marched through and conquered all that land, where now stands Helch-puck, Sasy-chicu chaty, Pelak-le-kaha, and Oki-huiaky.

"Some one hundred years ago, you (the Seminoles) left the Creek nation, where you had lands enough, and where the game was plenty. You were then strong; the Spaniards and Yemassee were weak. You drove the Spaniards into St. Augustine; you burnt their forts, destroyed their fields, and exterminated the Yemassee Nation; you made slaves of their women, and you killed and scalped their warriors. The white men are now strong, and the Seminoles are weak. The white men are like the fruit and leaves on the trees, which blossom and increase annually; the Seminoles like the deer of the forest, that might be hunted to their destruction. The whites might take vengeance for what you did the Spaniards and Yemassee; but we will not: we will forget what has passed. Like a kind father, the President says to you, there are lands enough for both his white and red children. His whites are strong and might exterminate his red; but he will not permit them. He will protect his red children. He will place them by themselves, mark their boundaries, so that there shall be no more disputes between his children; no more wars; but all live like friends and brothers.

"**FRIENDS AND BROTHERS:** The hatchet is buried. The muskets, the white men's arms, are stacked in peace. Do you wish them to remain so? Listen, then, to the talk of your father, the President. He wishes the red stick eternally buried: he drinks with you the black drink; he exchanges with you the white feather; he unites in the feather dance and eagle tail song; he smokes with you the pipe of eternal peace.

"Return to your camp. Think well on what your father, through us, has said to you. Meet the Commissioners in Council again on Monday next, and let us know where you are now settled; the names of your chiefs and towns; your population; and then listen to another talk from your Father, the President of the United States."

At the conclusion of this talk the Council broke up, the Chiefs promising to reply to it on Monday.

*Monday, 8th.*—In consequence of bad weather, there was no business done this day.

*Tuesday, 9th.*—The Chiefs and Warriors met the Commissioners at ten o'clock. Neomathla replied to the talk delivered on Satur-

day, and stated that the Florida Indians had determined to incorporate with their tribes, the fugitive Creeks, and the Red Sticks who were among them.

*Wednesday, 10th.*—This morning the Chiefs and Warriors met the Commissioners at 8 o'clock, and Colonel Gadsden delivered the talk which follows:

**FRIENDS AND BROTHERS:** We are happy you have received as brothers, those of the Creek nation among you. We are glad to learn that the red men are united. May they long continue so. We repeat to you what was said at our first meeting, that it is the will of your father, the President of the United States, that his white and red children should live like friends and brothers. To secure this, he will do for you what he has done for the Creeks. He will place you by yourselves, protect your property, and supply your wants. He wishes you to go *South*, where you can have lands enough to plant and for the grazing of cattle. You are now scattered all over Florida, some North, some South. At the North his white men have already come into the country. Already he hears of complaints from both his white and red men. To prevent any disturbances he must remove his red children from that quarter, and unite them with those at the South. At the North he cannot separate them without driving white men away. He cannot guard you against the Creeks, who live too near, and may trespass on your lands and property before we know it. At the South, where lands are plenty and good, and where your hunting grounds are, your father can do for you all that he promises.

**FRIENDS AND BROTHERS:** The game is scarce, if not destroyed. The buffalo, the deer, and the bear, have disappeared. You have hunted them from the face of the earth. The same Great Spirit, however, who gave and has taken away the buffalo, the bear, and the deer, has likewise given you the cow, the sheep, and the hog. He has pointed to the land which will yield the corn, the potato, the sugar cane, and the cotton. He commands you to follow the example of your white brethren. To live at peace with them, to cultivate the earth, and learn your squaws to spin. You will then have food enough, clothing enough: your great father will enable you to do these things. He will give you good lands enough to the South to cultivate; he will furnish you with cattle to stock your farms, and ploughs, hoes, and such other articles as you may require. Think well on what has been said to you.

**FRIENDS AND BROTHERS:** Beware of false prophets; listen not to those who pretend to be your friends, who speak with forked tongue. Like the bad men from across the water, they will delude you to your ruin. Are you not tired of wars? Have you not suffered enough, innocent victims of the folly of others? Brave warriors, though they make wars, are desirous of peace. Brave warriors, though they despise death, do not madly contend with the strong. Your nation stands alone; if the peace and friendship, now offered, is refused, the poison

of bad men will ruin you. Follow, then, the advice of your Great Father. He is your friend and will do all in his power to make you happy. Go, then, to the South, where he directs; live in peace and friendship with the white men, and you will become a rich and happy people.

*Thursday, 11th.* This day, at 11 o'clock, the Chiefs and Warriors met the Commissioners, and Neomathla replied at length to the Talk delivered yesterday, by Colonel Gadsden. He objected to the location of the Indians South, because the soil was poor, and not capable of supporting them. The sea, too, being on each side of them, bad men from over the big water would see his young men and give them bad advice, without his having power to prevent it. We are (he said) poor and needy; we do not come here to murmur or complain; we want advice and assistance. We rely upon your justice and humanity: we hope that you will not send us South, to a country where neither the hickory-nut, the acorn, nor the persimmon grow. We depend much upon these productions of the forest for food; in the South they are not to be found. For me (he said) I am old and poor, too poor to move from my village to the South. My cabins have been built with my own hands, my fields cultivated only by myself. I am attached to the spot improved by my own labor, and cannot believe that my friends will drive me from it.

The Commissioners advise the Chiefs to return to their camp and take time to consider upon what they had heard.

*Monday, 15th.*—This day the outlines of a Treaty was read by the Commissioners to the Chiefs and Warriors: they asked leave for time to consider of it.

*Thursday, 18th.*—The Chiefs and Warriors, having had under consideration the Treaty read to them on Monday last, met the Commissioners in Council, and, without hesitation, signed the Treaty of this date. The number of Chiefs who signed was thirty-one.

*Friday, 19th.*—An additional article was added to the Treaty, and signed by the Chiefs whose names are now mentioned in it.

*Saturday, 20th.*—Presents of homespun, calicoes, lead, powder, &c. were distributed to the Indians, and, on Sunday the 21st, they departed for their homes, perfectly satisfied.

*Tuesday Sept. 16th.*—Nea-mathla with the other Head Men and Chiefs, met the Commissioners in Council. A return of the Indian population in Florida was handed in, from which it appears that the total amount is 4,883 souls. Nea-mathla objected to stating the number of negroes in the nation. The Chiefs then, at the request of the Commissioners, gave in the names of the different towns, their situation, the names of Chiefs who rule them, and which is as follows:

TOWNS.	CHIEFS.	MILES.
Cohowofooche,	Neamathla,	23 N. by W. from St. Mark's.
Tallahassa.	Chefixico Hajo,	20 do do.
Okehumpkee,	Miconope,	60 South West from Volusia.
Tuphulga,	Ehemathlochee,	30 E. of Appalachicola and 1 mile N. of Forbes' Purchase.
Toloawathla,	Eheconhataunco,	West side Chatahoochy, 10 miles above the forks.
Chokoukla,	Mulatto King,	West side Appalachicola, 4 miles below the fork.
Jolee,	Blunt,	60 miles above the mouth of Appalachicola, on W. bank.
Spanawatka,	Cochrane,	2 miles below Jolee on the same side.
Oscillee,	Latufixico,	At the mouth of Oscillee river, on the East bank.
Ohathtokhouchy,	Waxaholahta,	On Little river 40 miles East of Appalachicola.
Yumersee,	Alac Hajo,	Head of Sumulga Hatchee River, 20 ms. N. of St. Mark's.
Lochchiocha,	Okoskaamathla,	60 miles E. of Appalachicola, and near Okloknee.
Alouko,	Tuchchuslu Hajo,	E. side Sumulga Hatchie, 20 miles N. of St. Mark's.
Hiamonce,	Chowastie,	5 miles from the Georgia line, on the East bank of Oklok- ne River.
Tuckagulga,	Ben. Burgess,	On the East bank of Oklokne, between that and Hiamonce.
Wasupa,	Toshatchismico,	2 miles East Sumulga Hatchee, 18 miles from St. Mark's.
Hatchcalamocha,	Amathla Hajo,	Near Drum Swamp, 18 miles W. of New Mickasuky town.
Etotulga,	Mickcooche,	10 miles East of the old Mickasuky town.
Toponanaulka,	Obiakee,	3 miles West of New Mickasuky.
Seleuxa,	Koamathla,	Head of Oscillee River.
Ahosulga,	Hockoknakola,	5 miles South of New Mickasuky town.
Mickasuky, (New,)	Tuskameha,	30 miles West of Suwaney river.
Sampala,	Ehemathlochee,	26 miles above the forks of the Appalachicola, on the West bank.

Oktahatke  
 Chohalaboohhulka,  
 Welika,  
 Weechitokha,  
 Talakbacha,  
 Tohopikaliga,  
 Loksachumpa,  
 Ahapapka,  
 Apukasasecha,  
 Yalaka,

Tallahasse or Spring Gar-  
 dens.

Etanie,  
 Tuslalahockaka,  
 Yalacasooche,

Menohomathla Hajo,  
 Yohola Hajo,  
 Lathloamathla,  
 Hohahtamico,  
 Tullishago,  
 Chokehipkalana,  
 Lokpoka Takoosa Hajo,  
 Ochusetustanuka,  
 Enehemathlochee,  
 Philip or Emathla,

Uchee Tustehuka or Billy,

Checota Hajo,  
 Alac Hajo,  
 Yelathaloko,

7 miles E. of W. from Sampala.

West side Suwanee, above its junction with Alapaha.

4 miles East Talahassa towns.

E. side Suwanee between that and Santa Fee.

West side of Cape Florida, on the sea coast.

East of last town 30 miles.

Head of St. John's River.

Head of Oklewaha.

20 miles West from the head of St. Johns.

On the West side of St. John's river, 35 miles from Volu-  
 sia or Dexter.

From Volusia 10 miles.

West of St. John's, East of Black Creek.

West of Walacooche 10 miles.

Mouth of Okelawaha.



## CAMP MOULTRIE CREEK,

September 21st, 1823.

SIR: We have to inform you, that on the 18th, we concluded a treaty with the Florida tribes of Indians, and on terms, as we believe, calculated to promote their future comfort and welfare, as well as the interests of the territory in which they reside.

The Florida Indians will be concentrated *South*. The location an interior one, not approaching the seacoast, at any one point, nearer than fifteen miles. Some few reservations, on the Appalachicola of limited extent, have been made in favor of Blunt, Tuske, Hajo, Ecanchatimico, and others; men of industrious habits, and who have been long friendly to the Americans, and rendered essential services to General Jackson, during the military operations in Florida.

The treaty, with other documents, will be forwarded you, by Colonel Humphreys, who leaves this in a few days for Washington.

WM. P. DUVAL,  
JAMES GADSDEN,  
B. SEQUI.

## DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

June 30th. 1823.

SIR: By a letter recently received from one of the Commissioners, it appears that the Florida Indians cannot, from their dispersed situation, and without injury to them, be assembled earlier than the 5th September next, which will enable the President to avail himself of your services at the proposed treaty; and for which purpose, he has directed that you be associated with the Commissioners in the negotiation. You will accordingly join them, and unite your efforts with theirs, to accomplish the object intended to be effected by it. A copy of the instructions to the Commissioners, and of a letter of this date to Colonel Gadsden, are enclosed for your information. The same allowance will be made to you, while actually engaged on this business, as is made to the Commissioners, which will be paid on a similar certificate from you, as is required of them.

The continued severity of the sickness of the sub-agent, from whom I have lately heard, will prevent him from resuming his duties before, perhaps, late in the fall; you will make the best arrangements you can, for the management of the Indian Department at St. Augustine, in the mean time; it is presumed, however, that the presence of the Indian Agent there, in pursuance of the order which has been given to him, will supersede the necessity of any arrangement on the subject. A copy of the order is enclosed.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

His Excellency WM. P. DUVAL,  
*St. Augustine, Florida.*

*Governor Duval to Mr. Calhoun,*

ST. AUGUSTINE, *July 15th, 1823.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter, of the 30th of June last, together with a letter of instructions, dated the 7th of April last, directed to Colonel James Gadsden and Bernard Sequi, Esq., Commissioners appointed to hold a treaty with the Florida Indians; also, copies of the two letters from your department, dated the 30th of June last, one addressed to Col. James Gadsden, and the other to Colonel Humphreys, Indian Agent. I accept with pleasure the appointment, which the President has conferred on me as Commissioner, to be associated with Colonel Gadsden and Mr. Sequi, for the purpose of holding a treaty with the Florida Indians; and I beg you will assure the President, that every effort on my part shall be made, to accomplish this desirable object.

With high respect,

I remain, &c. &c.

WM. P. DUVAL.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,

*Secretary of War.*

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ST. AUGUSTINE, *26th September, 1823.*

SIR: On the 21st instant, you were advised, by mail, of our having concluded a treaty with the Florida tribes of Indians. The 2nd article of the treaty, accompanying this, will inform you of the boundaries assigned them; which, with the other articles agreed on, will be found, in our opinion, to correspond with the spirit of our instructions, as well as the humane policy of our government. The want of a knowledge of the country south of Charlotte Harbor, and the impossibility of inducing competent individuals to explore, or of obtaining any satisfactory information relative to that region, necessarily prohibited the Commissioners from confining the Indians to that quarter, agreeably to the views of the Executive, as first expressed in our instructions. A *northern location*, though desired by a majority of the Indians, was violently opposed within the limits recommended by General Jackson; to have extended beyond those limits, would have been injurious to the best interests of Florida. A *southern location* was objected to by the Indians, on the ground, that the country south of Tampa bay did not contain a sufficient quantity of good land to furnish the subsistence of life; that force, only, could drive them into those limits, and that they were well convinced that the Americans possessed the power, and they not the ability to resist. The Indians, therefore, threw themselves on the protection of the United States, and appealed, feelingly, to the humanity of the Commissioners not to locate them in a country in which they must

inevitably starve. We knew nothing of the country but from vague and contradictory representations; the appeal, therefore, was listened to so far as to embrace, within the limits assigned the Indians, a small tract of country about thirty miles north of Tampa bay, containing within its boundaries many of the settlements of the southern chiefs. Even this extension *north* was not considered as removing the objections urged; to satisfy, therefore, all parties, and convince even the Indians of the humane disposition of the American government towards them, an article was inserted, that if, on examination by the Commissioners, &c. appointed to run the line, it should appear that there was not a sufficient quantity of good land within the limits allotted them, then the north line should be extended so as to give satisfaction on this point.

The reservations made in the Appalachicola district, were in favor of six influential chiefs, whose assent to the treaty could not have been obtained without this equitable provision for them, and their connections. They are all represented to be men of industrious habits, and who have made some advances in civilization. Blunt and Tuske-Hajo have been long friendly to the Americans, and rendered essential service to General Jackson, during the operations in Florida, on the termination of which they were permitted to reside where they now do, under the protection of the United States, with a promise, that when the Indians in Florida were disposed of, the provisions now made for them should be taken into consideration. We view these reservations as among the most favorable terms of the treaty. The lands allotted each chief and their connections, are so limited as to force the occupants into the civil habits and pursuits; while so large a subtraction is made from the Indian population to be concentrated, as to render that population more easily manageable.

The treaty, however, was the best we could effect, and we are inclined to the opinion, that the boundaries to which the Indians have been limited, will be found, on reflection, to be the most judicious in a national as well as territorial point of view. Justice has been done to the Indians by assigning to them a sufficient quantity of tillable land, with the addition of an extent of territory alike favorable as hunting grounds, and for grazing of cattle; while the position is so central as to admit of being encircled by a white population capable of overawing and controlling their uncivilized propensities.

We deem it our duty, before closing our mission, to invite your attention to some important subjects as intimately connected with the accomplishment of the views which have dictated the policy pursued by the United States towards the Indians. It was a misfortune to Florida, as a frontier territory, and with her maritime exposure, to have any tribes of Indians within her boundaries. It would have been a national benefit to have removed them to a more interior position; but as this seems to have been impracticable, the only course left was that which has been adopted—the confining the Indians within certain limits, and in that part of the territory least objectionable. This being accomplished, it is indispensable for the benefit

of the Indians, as well as the future security of Florida, that all intercourse with foreign countries, or individuals exercising an influence over them, be cut off, and that an exclusive control be obtained and maintained, by the American government.

This is only to be effected by the immediate establishment of military posts at the bay of Tampa, Charlotte Harbor, and at some other point near cape Florida, on the eastern coast, with such other salutary laws regulating the trade with them, as your own sound judgment may dictate. It is scarcely necessary to state to you, that a majority of the Indians now inhabiting the territory of Florida, and included as parties to the treaty just effected, are wanderers if not refugees from the southern Indians; many of them are of the old Red Stick party, whose feelings of hostility have only been suppressed, not eradicated; and even the native Seminoles have ever been of a most erratic disposition. These Indians are now scattered over the whole face of Florida, but a small portion of them having any settled residence—a majority wandering about for such a precarious subsistence as the esculent roots of the woods, or the misfortunes of our navigators on the Florida Keys, may afford. To bring together these discordant and fermenting materials; to embody such a population within prescribed limits, and to conquer their erratic habits, will require, in some degree, the exercise of authority, with the presence of a military establishment adequate to enforce it. These posts, therefore, in our opinion, should be established before the boundary line is run and marked. Such a military disposition of an adequate force, would produce an impression upon the Indians most favorable to an immediate concentration within the limits allotted.

The military establishments recommended, from the protection they would afford, will further induce an early settlement of the country now open to the enterprize of emigrants; the presence of which population will assist, materially, in forcing the Indians within the limits allotted them, and in obtaining that control so much desired.

As an act of justice to Lieut. Ripley, who commanded the detachment of troops on the treaty ground, and of Lieut. H. Brown, the Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, we most cheerfully testify to the zealous, active, and faithful discharge of the various duties assigned them.

Col. Humphreys, Indian Agent, and Mr. Richards, the Interpreter, likewise, rendered us essential service during the complicated difficulties we had to encounter. In assembling and marching the western Indians through a wilderness of 250 miles in extent, to the treaty ground, they have been exposed to privations and expenses, giving them strong claims on the Department of War for extra compensation, the equitable adjustment of which is submitted to your consideration, by

Your most obedient servants,

WM. P. DUVAL,  
JAMES GADSDEN,  
BERNARDO SEQUI.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN, *Secretary of War.*



September 26th.

The Commissioners met this day at the quarters of Gov. Duval, and having signed the abstracts of provisions, and vouchers for expenditures, they adjourned sine die.

Test,

GEO. MURRAY,  
*Secretary to the Commission.*

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No. 2.

*Secretary of War to Col. J. Gadsden.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

October 29th, 1823.

SIR: The President not having returned to the city as I expected, I have transmitted to him the treaty with the Florida Indians, and all the papers that accompanied it, with the letter of Gov. Duval, requesting that you may be immediately appointed the Commissioner, and that Lt. Ripley be associated with you, to run the lines of the land assigned to the Indians by the treaty. I have recommended that the request of the Governor be acceded to, and as soon as I hear from the President, will inform you of his decision.

By a provision of the treaty, it appears that rations of bread and meat are to be furnished for the Indians, whose number, by an estimate which accompanied the treaty, is represented to be about 4,800. The views of the Commissioners in making the provision, are not stated sufficiently distinct, to understand whether it was their intention that the rations of bread and meat are to be furnished indiscriminately for the whole number, or to those merely who may move on the lands assigned to them by the treaty, and in such quantities only, as may be absolutely necessary for their subsistence. If the former be the intention of the Commissioners, it will involve a very considerable expense, which may present some impediment to the ratification of the treaty. But, as I am not aware of any reason, why rations should be furnished to so great an extent; I am inclined to think, that the latter was their intention, and I am confirmed in this impression, by the opinion of Colonel Humphreys. It is desirable, however, to have distinctly the views of the Commissioners on this subject, and I will thank you for as full an explanation of them, as you may be able to give, accompanied by an estimate of the probable number of Indians for which, in your opinion, rations will be required.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

Colonel JAMES GADSDEN,  
*Charleston, S. C.*



## No. 3.

*Extract of a letter from Colonel James Gadsden, to the Secretary of War, dated "Charleston, South Carolina, November 14th, 1823."*

"In reply to your communication, of the 29th of October, I have to state it as my impression, that the rations of bread, meat, and salt, provided for in the 5th article of the treaty, with the Florida Indians, were, agreeably to the intentions of the Commissioners, to be limited in *quantity*, to the bare subsistence of those individuals embraced within its provisions; and to be confined, in the issues of those who might be compelled to *remove*, and not extending to those already residing within the limits of the country allotted. The terms bread, meat, and salt, were left indefinite, so that the issues might be controlled at the discretion of the agents, by such circumstances as could not be anticipated by the Commissioners, or such instructions as might emanate from the Department of War. It was believed, that this provision was not only equitable to those Indians, who, by abandoning fields already cultivated for a wilderness, might be distressed the first year for the subsistence of life; but would present a strong motive for immediate concentration, and at the same time produce impressions on the savage, favorable to American humanity. It will be distinctly recollected, that the Florida tribes had been but recently embraced within our territorial boundaries; that they consisted of most discordant materials, that were to be brought into harmonious union; that a majority were refugees from the southern tribes, still hostile in their feelings, which had been irritated by repeated chastisements, and kept alive by foreign or individual instigations. To embody these materials together; to obtain a control over the savages and conciliate their friendship, seemed to require the application, (however expensive,) of all such means, as would produce immediate and most permanent effects. The subsisting those, who would be embarrassed by the removal necessary, until they could be made as comfortable in the country to which they were assigned, appeared one of the most equitable and salutary provisions. The Commissioners, in endeavoring to effect the objects the Government had in view, did not attempt to balance between necessary expenditures of money, and probable Indian aggressions.

The estimate of the Indian population in Florida, accompanying the treaty and other documents, was furnished by the Indians themselves, but was always believed by me imperfect and exaggerated. It must ever be difficult, under any circumstances, to ascertain with minute accuracy, the probable population of wandering tribes; but more so, when the information must be derived solely from the Indians themselves, having a positive interest in exaggerating their numbers. From the data, therefore, within my possession, modified in some degree by conjecture, I am able to afford you, agreeably to your request, the following imperfect estimate of the probable number of Indians, for which rations may be required.

Aggregate population, agreeably to Indian statements,	4,800
Of this number, about 1000 will remain on the reservations set apart on the Appalachicola, and who are entitled to no other provisions, than those specified in the aforesaid article,	1,000
Over estimate of population, including Creeks, who will prefer returning to their nation, to being concentrated south,	1,000
Deduct for probable amount of population already within the limits allotted,	1,000
	3,000
Probable number, including women and children, to be provided with rations of meat and bread,	1,800

Fresh beef may be contracted for in Florida and Georgia, deliverable at the agency, at a moderate price, and the bread stuff, (corn being preferred by the Indians,) can be obtained in Orleans, and shipped to the Bay of Tampa, at a very inconsiderable expense, so soon as the Mississippi begins to discharge its waters.

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No. 4.

*The Secretary of War to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

December 24, 1823.

SIR: I enclose for your information a copy of a letter to Colonel Humphreys, who is now in Washington.

As there may be some little delay in his arrival in Florida, you will, in the mean time, take such steps as you may deem proper to prepare the Indians for a speedy execution of the treaty. It is impossible to give specific instructions here on the subject, and the Agent is therefore directed to consult with Colonel Gadsden and yourself, in the measures to be taken. You will, accordingly, afford him your advice, and take the course which may in your judgment be necessary and proper, having the most rigid regard to economy.

I have honor, &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

HIS EXCELLENCY WM. P. DUVAL,

*St. Augustine.*

[Accompaniment of No. 4.]

*The Secretary of War to Colonel Humphreys.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

December 24, 1823.

SIR: The treaty with the Florida Indians, as I understand, being ratified by the Senate, you will immediately repair to your post, to attend to its execution. It is impossible to give you full instructions on the subject, until the appropriation to carry into effect the treaty is made by Congress. In the mean time, you will make such preliminary arrangements as may be necessary for concentrating the Indians on the lands assigned to them, with as little delay as possible, and to defray the expense for which, you are authorized to draw on this Department for a sum not exceeding \$6,000. But you will not draw until it is absolutely necessary, and then will accompany your bills with a statement of the expenses to which the money is to be applied. In all the measures to be taken for the execution of the treaty, you will consult with Governor Duval and Colonel Gadsden, the former of whom is advised of the ratification of the treaty, and requested to take, during your absence, such steps as he may deem proper, to prepare the Indians for a speedy execution of the treaty, agreeably to its provisions.

I have the honor, &amp;c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To Colonel HUMPHREYS,  
*now in Washington.*

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No. 5.*From Governor Duval to the Secretary of War, dated*

PENSACOLA, January 12, 1824.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, since my departure from St. Augustine, I have carefully examined the interior of Florida, which is, in my opinion, the most desirable and valuable region in all the Southern country. Captain Burch, no doubt, has made his report to you, of his route to St. Augustine from this place, and, of course, has given in his report a description of the country, soil, &c.

I visited all the Indian towns on my route to this city, and endeavoured to impress on the minds of the Chiefs the importance of restraining their warriors, and preserving the friendship of the United States. I am sorry to say that the Indians under the immediate command of Nea Mathla have been concerned in killing the cattle, in two days after the troops at St. Marks were removed. I have taken great pains to ascertain the real feeling of the Indians towards us, and can rely with some confidence on the friendship of all the Chiefs

except Neamathla. He is a man of uncommon capacity, bold, violent, and restless. He cannot submit to a superior, nor endure an equal. No reliance can be placed on him, and his men are the most lawless and vile of the Indians in Florida. I feel confident that *they will not remove into the boundary given to them by the late treaty, unless there is a military force in the vicinity to overawe them.* I do not believe that these Indians will dare to commence hostilities, but they steal from, and kill the cattle of, the white settlers, whenever they have an opportunity. A few men kept at St. Marks, until the Indians are removed, I deem necessary.

I am, respectfully, &c.

WM. P. DUVAL.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,

*Secretary of War.*

EXTRACT No. 6.

*Extract of a Letter from His Excellency W. P. Duval, to the Honorable J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, dated*

PENSACOLA, April 11th, 1824.

Your letter of the 24th of last December, relating to the removal of the Indians, and also a copy of your letter of the same date, on the same subject to Colonel Humphreys, did not come to hand until three days since. It is now too late to remove the Indians until September. Time will be important if any regard is paid to economy. Contracts must be made for the supply of the Indians, and some time must elapse before they can be executed; beside, there are other arrangements for tools, stock, &c. required by the treaty, which the Indians expect will be faithfully and punctually provided. To attempt a hasty removal of these people, before we are ready, on the part of the Government, to execute what we are bound by treaty to perform, would not only increase the dissatisfaction of the Indians, but greatly enhance the expense. The Indians would also lose their present crops which are now planted, and no positive disadvantage can result from this delay. In addition to what is stated, I will add that the boundary of the country intended for their occupation, has not yet been finally settled.

Colonel Gadsden wrote to me from Charlotte Harbor, that the lands in the Peninsula are by no means equal to his expectation. The northern line of the Indian boundary, will, I presume, be extended according to the treaty.

Colonel Humphreys met with Colonel Gadsden on his way from St. Augustine to Pensacola, and conversed with him on these subjects. I am happy to say, his opinions are decidedly with me in the views I have expressed on these subjects.



It will be less expensive to furnish the Indians with beef, than pork. The beef can be driven to the several points required, for even less than the pork could be purchased for in New Orleans.

Corn and salt, or flour, if corn cannot be obtained, will be had cheapest in New Orleans. I am satisfied that many of the Indians will leave the Seminoles, and settle among the Creeks before the next fall. It is my opinion that not more than fifteen hundred will remove into the boundary—this opinion has been formed on my own observation and intelligence, derived from the Indians while I was with them during last winter. Whatever order you may deem proper to give, either as to the removal or manner of supplying the Indians shall be promptly executed, should you entertain any views different from my own.

If the arrangements are left to my discretion the most rigid economy consistent with the fair and just execution of the treaty, will govern me in the expenditure of the funds which may be transmitted for this object.

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No. 7.

*From Governor Duval to the Secretary of War.*

PENSACOLA, April 11th, 1824.

At the moment the mail was about to be closed, I received from Colonel Humphreys a copy of a letter, the original of which he handed me at the same time, and which I transmit for your information.

Nea ma-tha la and his chiefs are fully apprised of their situation, and say they will remove whenever ordered, but beg time to gather their present crop. Under all the circumstances I have determined to permit them to remain, subject, however, to your order, which they perfectly understand. I enclose to you the advertisement for supplying the Indians which Colonel Humphreys with my approbation has issued; it will immediately be sent to St. Augustine for publication. Before any contracts will be made, you will have time to countermand the measure, if it should be deemed by you inexpedient, so an early answer from you will be expected.

Nea-ma-tha-la is a most uncommon man; he ought to be induced to remove with his people. This chief, you will find, perhaps, the greatest man you have ever seen among the Indians. He can, if he chooses to do so, control his warriors with as much ease as a colonel could a regiment of regular soldiers—they love and fear him. If this man can be made (as I have no doubt he can,) the firm friend of our Government, no means should be spared to induce him to go with his people, and to continue as the chief of his nation. The hospitality and manly feelings of this chief have always kept him in poverty. If Congress should allow him to sell his reservation of land, and direct the money to be laid out in cattle for him, it will awaken his gra-



titude to the Government, and render him of essential service in commanding the nation.

This chief should be seen by you; and then you can judge of the force and energy of his mind and character. Nea-ma-tha-la and the chiefs who will go with him to the city have never seen the interior of the United States, and have no precise knowledge of the strength and power of our country. I am, &c.

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

HON. JOHN C. CALHOUN, *Secretary of War.*

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[Accompaniment of No. 7.]

*From Colonel Humphreys to Governor Duval.*

PENSACOLA, *April 7th, 1824.*

SIR: In compliance with the requisition made by you, in our last conversation I have the honor to submit my views in relation to the removal of the Indians of this Territory, to the new limits assigned them under the late treaty. In the examination of this subject, the following points obviously present themselves for consideration: first, whether under existing circumstances, is it practicable to effect a removal now, and if so, is it adviseable, or would it be more proper to defer it to a future period? In answer to this, I would remark that the measure does not appear practicable at this time, without infinite difficulty and expense, both of which might in a good degree be avoided by a few months occupied in preparation. An earlier removal than the ensuing fall, does not appear essentially important to the interest of the Government, or the prosperity of the Territory. The increase of its population, the grand desideratum, cannot, it is conceived, be affected by the proposed delay. The season is already so far advanced, that persons intending to become settlers, who have been deterred by the presence of the Indians, and are awaiting their departure, have ere this commenced making crops elsewhere, and will not, it is presumable, abandon them. The Indians have, also, at most of the towns, planted their corn, &c. and if they are allowed to remain for the harvest, it will, it is fair to calculate, in no inconsiderable degree diminish the expenses incident to the stipulated supply of provisions.

In addition to these considerations, another of great weight is suggested, which of equity at least appears conclusive against a hurried and unprepared removal. It has not been practicable to make sufficient arrangements, for furnishing the supplies alluded to, the promise of which, forms to the Indians an indispensable important item in the treaty, and one without which they must inevitably severely suffer; and in many instances, it is feared, perish. However eagerly some of their unfeeling white neighbors may urge a hasty expulsion of these unhappy people, humanity loudly exclaims against the idea

of driving them from their present habitations, before the means of subsistence are provided, to carry them to, and sustain them at their new positions. Nor would such a step well accord with the promises of friendship and protection made by the Government, or sustain its wonted character for justice; besides which, it cannot be expected that the Indians, however amicably disposed they may be, will readily or without complaint, enter upon the performance of the contract they have made with the United States, (at the best disagreeable to them,) should they not discover a disposition on the part of the Government to comply with the terms of the treaty, with promptitude and fidelity. Another reason to be offered, why the removal should not take place at this time, may be found in the fact, that the Commissioner appointed to run the boundaries has not been able, notwithstanding his laborious and extraordinary exertions, to declare that duty executed; and it will be recollected that, by the treaty, the establishment of one of those boundaries depends in some measure upon the opinion of that officer, as to whether there is a sufficiency of good land for the purposes of cultivation, within the limits defined in that instrument. A removal before a report is made upon this subject, would be premature and injudicious, inasmuch as it might involve the necessity of a second change of ground, and consequently produce embarrassment and extra expense. With respect to the mode to be adopted for the procurement of the promised supplies of provisions, in that way which shall best effect the object, having a due regard to economy, and at the same time insure a punctual delivery. I can only say, that, so far as my experience and knowledge extend, upon the subject, the plan of obtaining proposals for contracts by advertisement in the public prints, has been found the most advisable, for the reason, that it encourages competition; and thus affords a security against extortion. I will add that I feel authorized to say the opinions expressed in the foregoing, relative to the suitable period for removing the Indians, as well as to the mode proper to be adopted for furnishing their supply of provisions, are in perfect coincidence with the opinions entertained upon the same subject, by Colonel Gadsden, Commissioner, whom I met at Okihumky, in my route to this place. I cannot close this communication without repeating the sentiments I gave you on a former occasion in regard to *Nea-ma-tha-la*, the principal chief of the Florida Indians. By the terms of the treaty, he is located upon a reservation very remote from the main body of the nation; the offer of this arrangement, designed to gratify and soothe the feelings of this aged and respectable man, was wise and judicious, as calculated to have a beneficial effect upon the pending negotiations; but I cannot consider the consummation of it less than unfortunate, inasmuch as it removes from the immediate government of the nation the only individual in it who possesses a perfect and undisputed authority over a people, some of whom are often troublesome to manage. The promptitude with which *Nea-ma-tha-la* has uniformly, since the war, punished the offences of his people, particularly those against the white inhabitants of the country, has excited in the In-

dians an awe and respect for his character, and given him unbounded influence over them, and at the same time furnishes the surest proof of the strength of his desire to be on terms of amity with the United States.

The immediate presence of such a man among the Indians, it is evident, would be most salutary, and afford an ample barrier against the evils which might otherwise be produced by the machinations of white men without the nation, or the turbulent spirits among the red within. I have reason to believe that were Nea Mathla permitted to sell his reservation, by means of which he might procure a valuable stock, and place himself on an eligible footing in point of property, he might be induced to take up his residence within the limits assigned to the Indians in the south; an event, let me repeat, I must look upon as promising great benefit to the United States, as well as to the Indians themselves.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

G. HUMPHREYS,

*Agent for Indian Affairs, Florida.*

His Excellency WM. P. DUVAL.

No. 8.

*From the Secretary of War to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

June 2, 1824.

SIR: I had the honor of writing to you on the 3d ultimo; and, in that letter, (the season for removing the Indians being deferred,) requested you to furnish me with an estimate of the cost which is likely to attend upon the emigration, upon the best data which you might be able to command. Since then, the act of Congress has passed containing the appropriation to carry into effect that object; and fixes it at sixty-five thousand seven hundred dollars.

The same act appropriates the sum of six thousand dollars for implements of husbandry, stock of cattle and hogs; five thousand dollars, annually, for twenty years, for the annuity. four thousand five hundred dollars, for compensation for improvements that the Indians may abandon; two thousand dollars, for transportation of the different tribes to the land assigned them; two thousand dollars, annually, for twenty years, for the establishment of a school, and the support of a gun smith; and five thousand dollars for running the line of the land assigned to the Indians.

In making your estimates, under the appropriation of \$65,700, for the expense of rations to be furnished to the Indians, agreeably to the 5th article of the treaty, you will be guided by a strict regard to economy, taking care that the sum does not go beyond the appro-

priation, but bringing it as much within it as may be practicable, consistent with the objects contemplated by the act. On submitting your estimates, you will notify the Department of the time when you will require the remittances to be made, and where, which will be attended to.

You will appoint a disinterested and suitable person to ascertain the value of the improvements that may be abandoned by the Indians. You will instruct him to adjudge each case separately, and accompanying it with a description of it, and the reasons for its allowance. On receiving the whole of which, you will transmit them to this Department for its approval, when the amount will be remitted to carry into effect the provisions of the treaty, in relation thereto.

It will be important that immediate measures be taken to secure to the Indians a gunsmith, provided for by the 6th article of the treaty. The further provision for a school will be the subject of future arrangement, under propositions which it is presumed, will be made to the Department by some of the missionary establishments, acting under regulations which have been adopted by the Government, for the improvement of other tribes. Colonel Gadsden will be informed of the appropriation of five thousand dollars, for running the line of the land assigned to the Indians.

You will be careful to direct the agent, in making up his accounts, to place every item of disbursement under its appropriate head, so that corresponding charges may be made on the books of the Treasury. In all letters of advice you will, in naming the sum, add *for and on account* of the particular branch of the expenditure which the draft is designed to cover.

You will be careful to send in the estimates, under the various heads of appropriation, in time for the remittances, respectively, to be made.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To his Excellency WM. P. DUVAL,  
*Pensacola.*

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No. 9.

*Extract of a letter from his Excellency William P. Duval, Governor of Florida, to the Honorable J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, dated Pensacola, June 18, 1824.*

"I have this day received letters by an express, from St. Marks and Tallahassee, from the Indian agent, and other respectable gentlemen in that quarter, by which I am informed that the Indians seem very unfriendly to the settlers, and have commenced killing their cattle, and are daily becoming more and more insolent. Neamathla, who has been for more than a year past soliciting permission to visit Washington City, now refuses to go. The Indians in that



neighborhood have lately procured a considerable quantity of powder and lead. Judge Robinson, who resides on the waters of the Oke-lockony, and who has heretofore had great confidence in the Indians, now advises strongly that a military force should be sent there. I have, therefore, applied to the commanding officer at this post for a company to be sent to St. Mark's, where the expense of supplying them will not be greater than at this place, as the sloop Florida, which belongs to the Quartermaster's Department, can, without any inconvenience to the service, transport whatever may be required. I go to Tallahassee immediately; and nothing but bad health would have prevented me from being there in April last. I deem it proper to request that the officer who may command the detachment, should be directed to act under my orders; otherwise, much difficulty might occur, as the Captain in command might act contrary to my views and knowledge. I regret that my ill health did not permit me to meet Colonel Gadsden at Tallahassee, as I intended to have done. I have written to him, and requested that he will come to Tallahassee as soon as possible. A personal conference with him is of much importance in making the future arrangements for the removal of the Indians. I do not believe that more than fifteen hundred Indians will be entitled to rations, though the advertisement is for a much larger number. I shall contract only for the *necessary* supplies, with the privilege to increase or diminish the amount at pleasure, upon suitable notice. I am convinced that a respectable military force should be at Tallahassee by the 1st of October next, at which time I shall order the Indians to remove: they will not go willingly, and will refuse unless a respectable force is present. This is the opinion of Colonel Gadsden, and the Agent, and has long been mine.

I shall personally attend the execution of the treaty. Economy and despatch shall govern me. I do not expect to leave Tallahassee, until the Indians are removed; and my personal attention, I flatter myself, will save considerable expense to the Government.

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No. 10.

*From Governor Duval to the Secretary of War.*

PENSACOLA, June 21, 1824.

SIR: I have been waiting for two days past for a change of wind, to sail to St. Mark's. I am determined to remain in that quarter for the next four months, and see and personally make all the contracts for the fulfilment of the treaty with the Indians.

Several propositions for supplying the rations for the Indians, have been received. The most favorable for the whole is eighteen cents.

I am determined not to submit to any such imposition on the government; and I request you (should you deem it advisable to do so,



to allow me to act according to my discretion, if more favorable terms are not offered by contract. I shall be enabled to purchase beef, salt, corn, or flour, with the funds of the government so as to insure a saving of thousands of dollars. I can employ a man to make the purchase of the beef, and to drive them to any point, and I can send the sub-agent to New Orleans for the other articles required by the treaty. Near the head of St. John's river there must be one place of deposite; and the other will be at Tampa bay, or some other convenient point.

To allow eighteen cents for the ration, only allowing fifteen hundred rations per day, will cost the government for one year \$98,000. I am ready to perform any duty or service, that will diminish the expense attending on this treaty.

Let some funds be deposited as early as possible at New Orleans, for should I have to superintend the purchase of the rations, I wish to be about it in due time. Any directions you may think proper to transmit, shall be strictly attended to. The \$6,000 given by the treaty for the purchase of agricultural instruments, and stocks of hogs and cattle, as well as the \$1,000 given for the services of black and gun smith, and for tools, iron, steel, &c. should be placed at an early period, under my control, so that these supplies might be procured; for the smiths' tools, ploughs, hoes, iron, axes, &c. by sending to the north, can be had on much better terms, than in this southern country.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

WM. P. DUVAL.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN, *Secretary of War.*

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No. 12.

*Extract of a letter from His Excellency Wm. P. Duval, Governor of Florida, to the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, dated*

ST. MARK'S, July 12th, 1824.

Last night a company of the 4th Infantry, under the command of Capt. Lear, arrived here. The temper of the Indians in this quarter, demand the presence of some troops, and I now assure you that unless a respectable military force is sent to this quarter by the 1st of October, that the Indians will not move. They are now as busy in clearing land, and building their habitations, as if they were never to remove. Nea Mathla is assuming and insolent; he has threatened to drive off the white settlers. I must take some decided step with this chief: he is the only turbulent man in the nation. He is creating, daily, more and more dissatisfaction among the Indians. He has avoided me since my arrival here, although he was to meet me on a day appointed, which he promised, but failed to do. I have understood from Capt. Lear, that he has received orders not to move

out of St. Mark's, or to send any detachment out under any pretence. I consider these orders may prove very injurious to the public service, for surely as I am on the spot, something should be left to my discretion and judgment. The troops should act under my orders, or they are worse than useless at this point. Whatever step I take, will be such as the soundest discretion, and coolest and most mature reflection, would require. But if a single chief should be factious, or should, in a fit of rage or drunkenness, do mischief, I should certainly like to send a detachment, and immediately arrest him. As to using any improper severity, that shall not be permitted. If a chief deserves punishment, I will call the other chiefs to try him. I regret that no sub-agent has yet been appointed: I shall want his services very much, and his presence will be required either at the deposite on St. John's river, or at Tampa bay, to superintend the issues to the Indians. I am inclined to believe that many of the Indians, in this region, will go back to the Creeks, where they properly belong, sooner than go south.

I am, &c. &c.

WM. P. DUVAL.

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No. 12.

*Extract of a letter from Governor Wm. P. Duval to the Secretary of War, dated "St. Mark's, July 12th, 1824."*

The estimate you require I herewith transmit to you. It is impossible to say whether there will be more or less than 1500 Indians to feed daily. I am inclined to the opinion that there is not more and not many under that number. Many of the Indians in this section of Florida, are from the Creek Nation, and have removed into this country in the last three or four years. As they of right belong to the Creek Nation, I shall encourage as many of them as I can persuade to return to their own country. I have drawn on you, in favor of F. H. Nisbet, for 1,000, which you will of course deduct from the estimate. I shall contract for the cattle and hogs to be delivered at Tampa Bay, in October, and I have ordered the tools of husbandry to be brought from the North to be distributed at the same time. I was anxious to pay Neamathla his \$500, which, by the last article of the treaty, you will see was to be paid to him. I have the money in silver for him. I should be much pleased if Col. Gadsden would value the improvements under the Treaty. He could do better than any one I can obtain, and would give more satisfaction to the Indians than any person known to them. All the Chiefs have the highest respect for him and unbounded confidence in his justice and impartiality. I shall write to the Colonel immediately on the subject, and request you will aid me by your influence in this matter.

The Indians on the Appalachieola river behave very well; they seem anxious to follow all my directions, and are rapidly improving

in their building fences and mode of cultivation. I have great expectations that they will improve in civilization even faster than was expected by those the most sanguine in their calculations on this subject. I cannot, before closing this letter, forbear to urge the appointment of a Sub-Agent, and that he be directed to report himself directly and without delay to me at Tallahassee. You may rest assured that all possible attention will be given by me to the execution of the Indian Treaty, and that economy shall govern all my movements.

*Extract of so much of the estimate of Governor Duval, referred to in his letter to the Secretary of War, of July 12, 1824, as relates to rations.*

To 500 rations, furnished daily at some point near Lake George, on the St. John's river, East Florida, at 12½ cents per ration, as the lowest estimate, commencing the 1st of October next,	22,817 50
To 1000 rations, furnished daily at Tampa Bay, for the period of ten months, at the same price,	- - - 38,030 00
To 1000 rations, to be furnished for two months, at St. Marks, preparatory to the removal of the Indians from their lands, at the same price,	- - - 7,605 50

I shall be compelled to feed many Indians at this point [St. Marks,] until they start, and then all will draw provisions here for their journey.

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No. 13.

*Secretary of War to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

July 17, 1824.

SIR: Your letter of the 21st ultimo has been received. The proposals for furnishing rations to the Indians at 18 cents, which you state are the most favorable that have been offered, are considered entirely too high, and should by no means be accepted.

The removal of the Indians having been deferred, at your suggestion, until the fall, sufficient time is afforded to obtain the supplies on better terms, and I would, therefore, advise you to publish the advertisement for them in the New Orleans, Milledgeville, and Charleston newspapers. Should there be no proposals made, after allowing a reasonable time for them to be sent in, offering more advantageous terms than those you have received, you will then adopt the plan which you propose, exercising your discretion as to the arrangements necessary to carry them into effect, which should, however, be so made as to keep the whole expense for provisions within the sum of 65,000 dollars, the amount of the appropriation for that object.

On examining your printed proposals, I find they are not sufficiently explicit on some points, and enclose you a form. The time of the first and subsequent deliveries is left blank, which, of course,

you will fill up as may be required. I fix upon Tampa Bay as the place of delivery, from the belief that provisions will be required only at that point. If they should, in your opinion, be required elsewhere, you will add such places specifically, so as to avoid the possibility of dispute with the contractor, by leaving the place of delivery at large. Three months' supplies have been required at the first delivery, so that there may be one month's supply on hand to meet contingencies. At the subsequent deliveries, (except the last, (two months' provisions will be required, which will always leave one month's supply on hand when such subsequent delivery is made. It is believed that the daily rations cannot possibly exceed 2,500, particularly as you will issue only half rations to children. It is thought they will fall far below it; consequently I have fixed 1,250 as a minimum. Should you see cause to vary their numbers, you may alter either extreme. By advertising in New Orleans, Mobile, Milledgeville, and Charleston, as suggested, ample competition for the contract will be secured.

It is necessary to be very particular in issuing the rations to the Indians, and taking an account of them, so as to procure the necessary vouchers for settlement with the proper accounting officer of the Government. A descriptive roll should be kept of the number of Indians who may receive rations, distinguishing them by tribes, and the number of men, women, and children in each tribe, to whom rations may issue. None will be entitled to rations who do not remove. This roll should be duly certified by the agent to be correct. There being no sub-agent, you are authorized to employ a person to assist the agent in making issues, whose salary will be at the rate of 500 per annum. In making the daily issues, the same forms, in issuing and certifying, should be observed by the Agent as are used in the army. Any of the Assistant Commissaries will, if applied to, give you the necessary information for your guidance on this subject. The amount daily issued will be certified by the Agent, and approved of by you, in consolidated quarterly returns.

It will not be necessary to purchase the implements of husbandry until the Indians have moved on the lands assigned them. As soon as this is done, the means for carrying into effect the Treaty, in this respect, and for payment of the annuity for which it stipulates, will be placed at your disposal. Funds will also be placed at your disposal for the purchase of rations, as soon as you shall have transmitted to this Department an estimate of the probable amount that will be required for that purpose.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To his Excellency WM. P. DUVAL,  
*St. Mark's, Florida.*



No. 14.

*Extract of a letter from Governor Duval, to the Secretary of War,  
dated "Tallahassee, July 22, 1824."*

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day made a contract with Benjamin Chaires, Esq. of St. Augustine, to furnish one thousand rations to the Indians under the late treaty, six hundred rations daily at Tampa Bay, and four hundred daily on St. John's river, at or near the mouth of the Oclawaha. The ration to be furnished at eleven and a half cents. Governor Clarke was present, and several other gentleman who offered proposals, but none so favorable to the United States were offered as those proposed by Mr. Chaires. I know the securities that he offers to be ample. As to the few rations which must be furnished at St. Marks for the Indians who will quit their present possessions, and go to their reserves which are now unimproved, to wit: Neamathla and his connections, and the Chief Emathlachee, who is to remove to the Appalachicola, I have contracted for these rations at ten and a half cents. Captain M. Crupper has taken the contract, and offers good security. I have no doubt that the utmost reliance may be placed on the gentlemen who have taken the contracts. As soon as the securities shall sign the bonds, copies shall be transmitted to you. I beg, sir, you will direct the sub agent to report to me, as early as possible. The agent and sub agent must attend at Tampa Bay, to receive the rations from the contractors, and to give them vouchers. Unless they do attend at the several points of delivery, it will be impossible for me to know how much is furnished daily to the Indians. If 1,000 rations are not sufficient, daily, by the contract, on giving thirty days notice, I can demand 1,500 rations daily, if I find they should be required. Neamathla has conducted himself very strangely for some time past, he has threatened strongly to take up arms. He will not come near; he has ordered off some of the settlers, and certainly has created no small alarm among the people. I have ordered a meeting of all the chiefs at St. Marks, on the 25th instant, and will, in addition to the troops at St. Marks, have sixty or seventy of the militia, at the talk. I must take some decisive step with this Chief, immediately. or he will become, perhaps, troublesome, if not dangerous. I shall act with prudence, but I shall do whatever may be necessary to give security to our inhabitants quickly.

I again assure you that I am fully convinced, that, unless a respectable force is ordered here by the last of September, or first of October next, that the Indians will not leave this country. As the troops are to work on the road in this region, it would be good policy to have them at Tallahassee by the last day of September next.

## No. 15.

*Extract of a letter from Gov. Wm. P. Duval to the Secretary of War,  
dated Post St. Marks, July 29, 1824.*

“I have had some difficulty with the Indians in this quarter. They did not make an attack on our citizens, but they were extremely insolent, and made many threats. Their chiefs had, in some instances, killed our cattle and hogs. They also had gone with their men to several of our settlers, and ordered them off; they threatened to drive the people out of the country, and to make war on me. In short, the whole of their conduct was such, that I saw immediate hostilities must ensue if they did not receive a timely check. The military sent to this post, not being under my command, as I think they should have been, were of no use to me in stopping the Indians in their course, I determined at once to call out the few men that reside in this quarter. They came as volunteers to the new seat of Government well armed. In the mean time, I called the Chiefs and Warriors of the Appalachicola, to meet me at Judge Robinson’s, about thirty miles from their towns. They all promptly attended, and were ready to act as I might order. This sudden movement so surprised the Tallahassee and Mickasuskee Indians, that they hurried to meet me, and promised to obey my orders, and to respect my authority. The Chiefs were greatly alarmed, and I think they will be more circumspect in future; but I have but little confidence in them. The next day I took the interpreter with me and went to Neamathla’s town. I found there about three hundred Warriors, and I saw many of them armed. I immediately went into their square yard, (which is their forum,) and gave them a talk, and ordered them all to meet me on the 26th instant, at St. Marks, and assured them that their ruin and destruction was certain unless they obeyed my orders. On the day appointed, about six hundred Indians attended at this place, and I delivered to them a talk that made considerable impression on them. I then appointed John Hicks, their head Chief, to lead them south to their land, and I selected the eldest son of King Hijah, as his chief counsellor—these appointments the Warriors confirmed. These Chiefs are men of sense, and will execute my orders. I hope now no further difficulty will shortly occur with these people.

I have directed the Indians to prepare to move, and to be on their land by the first day of October next, at which time they will receive their rations.

The want of funds have impeded my operations, but from your last letter, I trust soon to be relieved from that difficulty. I cannot omit to impress on you the importance of having a respectable force in this quarter, by the 15th of September next. The Indians are restless, and much dissatisfied with the treaty. If the Big Swamp near the north line was given up to them, it would completely satisfy them. The Chiefs insist that they have sent men to examine the country, and that their report is, the good land within their present boundary

is insufficient. This is, in fact, the *only* obstacle on the part of the Indians; and as there are Spanish grants (*newly made I have no doubt,*) that cover this swamp, perhaps it would be best to let them have it.

I can now venture to say that the expense of carrying the treaty into effect, will not exceed my estimate transmitted to you, and I hope to make it even less. I have not heard a word from the agent since May last, or about the first of June. The whole trouble of attending to the Indians in this quarter, and of issuing their rations, has been performed by me. The agent is, no doubt, engaged in discharging his duties about Tampa Bay. I will repeat to you that it is important for the public interests, that the sub agent should report to me as early as possible. He will have to repair either to St. John's river or to Tampa Bay, to attend to the rations to be issued to the Indians.

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No. 16.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

August 17, 1824.

SIR: I have received your letters of the 12th ultimo, accompanied by an estimate of the expense of the rations to be furnished to the emigrant Indians in Florida, according to the late treaty. The estimate for the rations exceeds the appropriation. But the expense on that account must by no means be permitted to exceed the sum appropriated by Congress. I am decidedly of the impression that sum will be found sufficient, as I cannot doubt, from all I can learn, that the estimate of the number of Indians in Florida, is greatly exaggerated, and must believe that the meat and bread part of the ration will not cost twelve and a half cents, as you have estimated—a price exceeding the average rate of the complete ration throughout the United States. With those impressions, and the fact, that children will receive but half rations, I cannot doubt but that the sum appropriated will be ample. I have, however, entire confidence in your judgment and zeal to serve the public, and that you will take such measures as to conduct the concentration of the Indians in Florida, as will be most effectual and economical.

A requisition will issue as requested by you, for \$13,500, (thirteen thousand five hundred dollars.) that is to say, six thousand as provided for by the 3d article of the treaty; five thousand as provided for by the 3d article, two thousand dollars as provided for by the 5th article, and five hundred being the balance due under the 6th article. This sum will be placed to your credit in the bank of New Orleans.

You state that you have paid to Neamathla five hundred dollars under the treaty. On inquiring of the agent, I understood from him verbally, that the same amount had been expended by his direction, to purchase cattle at the request of this Chief. I directed the agent to make a report of this case, which, however, he has neglected. I

fear there will be some embarrassment in the disbursement, as the appropriation provides only for five hundred dollars. and it will be impossible that both of you can receive a credit. This subject ought to be immediately attended to.

I cannot believe that the Indians can be so infatuated as to make any decided objection to the removal, and that the hostile disposition which they now show, is intended to produce some relaxation in the terms of the treaty; but when they find the Government is resolved to carry its provisions into effect, they will acquiesce without trouble, particularly as they are eminently beneficial to the Indians. It will be impossible to augment the number of troops now in Florida, unless it should become necessary to apply force to a much greater extent than I now anticipate. The officer commanding at St. Mark's has received instructions to consult with you and to act under your directions.

Your drafts in favor of Colonel Nesbit for one thousand dollars has been paid. The accounts and estimates of the agent, will be rendered through you, and will be specifically approved by you. Punctuality in their rendition will be required. You are authorized to appoint a sub agent for one year, at five hundred dollars per annum, payable quarter yearly. You will report his appointment to the Department for confirmation. It is believed the services for a sub agent will not be required after the Indians shall have been concentrated on their reservation. The agent has rendered a statement of his account, by which it appears he has advanced, under your orders, on a contract made by you with Mr. Chaires, the sum of three thousand dollars. It is proper you should be apprised, that, under existing laws, no advances should be made, and that neither yourself, nor the agent can obtain payment for the sum advanced till the cattle are delivered under the contract, and receipted for.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To His Excl<sup>y</sup> WM. P. DUVAL, *St. Mark's*.

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No. 17.—*Extract.*

TALLAHASSEE, *August 31, 1824.*

SIR: I had the honor, on the 29th day of July last, to inform you of the difficulties which had arisen with the Indians in this Territory, and the measures I had taken to enforce their submission. I received your letter of the 17th ultimo, by express, last evening, from Pensacola, and you will find by my former letters, which must have reached you before this time, that I have closed the contracts for supplying the Indians, on terms highly advantageous to the United States. I enclose to you a copy of the contract entered into with Benjamin



Chaires, Esq. a gentleman of high standing and character, who has the means of certainly complying, and will, I am confident, fulfil his contract. Some disagreement existed between Mr. Chaires and myself at the time the contract was made. But I determined to make the contract as you see it, and to submit to you the circumstances fairly, so that you might, if you deem it just, make the change in his favor, which he believes he is entitled to expect. The persons who made the lowest proposals were General Clarke of Georgia, who offered to furnish the ration at Tampa Bay and the St. John's river, at fourteen cents. A Mr. Parham offered the following proposals, see the enclosed copy. These last proposals, only extended to St. Mark's and Tampa Bay. The security was not sufficient even if the terms had been lower. I also enclose you a copy of Mr. Chaires' proposal, so you may at once judge of his claim.

Mr. Chaires admits that at Tampa Bay, he is bound to furnish the ration at eleven and a half cents which was offered by Mr. Parham, but as his, Parham's offer, did not extend to St. John's river, Mr. Chaires contends he should be allowed fourteen cents for the ration at that point—that being the offer made by General Clarke, and the lowest of all the proposals for the whole nation. I told Mr. Chaires I could not, nor would not enter into any but the contract *as it is written*, and would submit the point in dispute to you. To this, he at length agreed. Mr. Chaires returned to St. Augustine the day after the contract was signed by him, in order to get the securities to sign also; I know them personally—they are ample. I learn Mr. Chaires will be here in a few days. Since I have reflected more on this subject, perhaps in strict justice, he should be allowed fourteen cents for the rations issued on St. John's river; certain I am he would not have made a contract for less than fifteen cents per ration but for the reasons he has assigned in his letter of proposals on this subject. I can do nothing, however, but submit the matter to you, and by your determination Mr. Chaires will abide. Captain M. Crupper contracted to deliver the rations at ten and a half cents, which I might want at St. Mark's, until the removal of that portion of the Indians who will go south. There are two Chiefs and their followers, Mathlochee and Neamathla who will have to remove from their present residence to their reserves of lands—these Chiefs and their followers, will be justly entitled to rations, as they will have to commence new settlements entirely. I do not believe that there will be more than one hundred and twenty in this section of the Territory, who will be entitled to draw rations, and they will be furnished at St. Mark's. The whole number of rations daily to be issued, I now believe, will not much exceed eleven hundred. The Indians in this quarter have some violent quarrels among themselves, and lately two towns fought with clubs and knives, and several of them are maimed and severely beaten. I have interposed my authority to prevent open and deadly war among them, and expect to make them settle their dispute and abide by the opinion of their steady old Chiefs. Between the settlers and the Indians, I have been constantly en-

gaged in preserving order, whenever my health would permit. The duties which I have performed and the exposure to the hot sun and rain, in a wilderness such as this, has seriously injured my constitution. I have for several weeks, been wholly unable to quit my cabin, and much of the time confined to my bed. I mention this as my apology for not writing more fully to you, on the subject of the contracts I have made.

Since my arrival at St. Mark's, I have continued to issue rations partially to the Indians. I purchased pork, flour, and salt, and had their rations issued under my own eye; but finding that the little pork, flour, and salt, which I had purchased for this purpose, cost too much, I made an agreement with Captain M. Crupper, to furnish, from time to time, the rations I might want, at twelve and a half cents, until the first day of August, when I expected to issue rations regularly to the Indians entitled to draw, until their removal. This was done also under my own view, until the first of the present month, when the ration by contract was to be furnished at ten and a half cents, and they have been regularly issued at that price under my inspection. The want of the services of the agent, or any one to assist me, has imposed heavy duties on me, and engrossed the whole of my time. The six thousand dollars which, by the treaty, was to be laid out in purchase of stock, cattle, &c., as well as the one thousand dollars for a gun smith and his tools, 2,000 dollars for transportation and the \$4,500, to be given for compensation for Indian improvements, will be wanted as early as possible; the six thousand dollars for the purchase of stock cattle, is not a part of the annuity, as I understand the treaty. It will be time enough to remit the annuity sometime hence.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

WM. P. DUVAL.

Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN,  
*Secretary of War.*

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(Accompaniments of No. 17.)

July 20, 1824.

SIR: In pursuance of your notification to receive proposals for furnishing the Florida Indians with rations for one year, I beg leave again to offer to contract for supplying them. I will furnish the entire rations as required, of beef, corn, or flour, and salt, for fifteen cents per ration, or under the peculiar situation in which I am placed, having as I believed, obtained the contract from the Indian agent, and having with his advice, made extensive purchases of provisions for the fulfilment of said supposed contract, which must inevitably perish on my hands, and considerable loss and injury be sustained by me. Should the contract now be refused me, under all these circum-

stances, I will further offer to furnish said rations as low or for the same price, which may be offered by any other person or persons for each and all the component parts of said rations, or should your Excellency be of opinion that my situation entitles me to no preference, I will further offer to furnish the said rations for one twentieth part of a cent less than any other person or persons who may offer, and who may offer good and sufficient security for the fulfilment of the contract.

From the observation which you made of your intention to divide or sever the contract, permit me to say, that my proposals is intended only for Indians which are to be located in East Florida, or on the eastern side of the Suwaney river.

I heretofore offered as my securities, John Bellamy, [Edward Gibson, John Y. Garey, and Francis I. Ross, which were, by the agent, considered sufficient, and which are again offered; but should your Excellency be of opinion that the above named persons are not sufficient, you may rest assured that any other or further security will be given, which may be by you required.

I am, very respectfully,

Your most ob't servant,

BENJ. CHAIRES.

His Excel'cy WM. P. DUVAL,

*Governor of Florida and Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

Know all men by these presents, that we Benjamin Chaires, John Bellamy, Edward R. Gibson, John Y. Garey, and Francis I. Ross, all of St. John's and Duval counties in the Territory of Florida, are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America, in the penal sum of one hundred thousand dollars, which, well and truly to be paid to the United States of America, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, as witness our hands and seals, this 22d day of July, 1824.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that the said Benjamin Chaires has contracted to deliver to the Indian agent or sub agent of the Florida Indians, or such other person as the Governor of Florida may appoint, six hundred rations for the use of the Florida Indians, daily, at or near the military post at Tampa Bay in the said Territory; each ration to be one pound and a quarter of fresh beef, or three quarters of a pound of good salt pork, one quart of corn, or one pound of good flour, and one quart of salt for every hundred rations. And the said Chaires is also to select the most convenient high ground which can be travelled to from the interior of the country above, at, or near the mouth of Oclawaha river, a branch of the St. John's river, as the point where he will issue four hundred rations daily, or in such manner as the agent or person acting, may consent to, under the direction of the Governor of Florida; a ration to be composed of the proportions as before mentioned, for the use of the

emigrant Florida Indians in that quarter. The said Chaires, at either of the aforesaid points, is never to have less than thirty days provisions on hand, nor more corn or flour than sixty days rations, (except at his own risque.) The said Chaires is bound to put up such buildings as will secure the said provisions from the weather and depredations, at each of the aforesaid points. The issues of the said rations may be increased in number to fifteen hundred per day, at the option of the superintendent, or on the order of the Secretary of War, by giving to the said Chaires, thirty days notice. The United States on their part, by their agent, William P. Duval, bind themselves to pay to the said Chaires, eleven and an half cents for each ration as aforesaid, issued and delivered to the agent authorized to receive the same, provided no more rations are issued per day than are agreed for by this contract. And the agent is authorized to give to the said Chaires, vouchers for all such rations.

The said Chaires shall commence the issue of the rations at Tampa Bay and on the St. John's river, at the point aforesaid. from the 10th day of next October; the issues on the St. John's to continue one year, and those at Tampa Bay, ten months from the 10th day of next October, and no longer. William P. Duval, as the superintendent of Indian affairs, will, at the end of every sixty days, as the rations are issued, upon proper vouchers, pay to the said Chaires, the amount that may be due to him for rations up to that time. But in the event of a failure on the part of the said Chaires, to comply with this contract, either in the whole or in part, then and in that case, the said Duval shall procure the rations on the best terms he can obtain them.

When these conditions are complied with, then this obligation is to be void; otherwise, it shall remain in full force and virtue.

BENJ. CHAIRES.

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(Accompaniment of No. 17.)

FORT ST. MARK'S, *July 18, 1824.*

SIR: I will furnish and deliver, at this place, and Tampa Bay, as many rations as you may require for the use of the Indians, at eleven and an half cents per ration. The ration to consist of fresh beef or salt pork, corn or flour, and salt.

I offer Jesse Bird and Martin Hardin, for my security.

R. PARHAM.

To WM. P. DUVAL,  
*Governor of Florida.*



No. 18.

*From the Secretary of War to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

September 11th, 1824.

SIR: You have been informed, by my letter of the 17th ultimo, that a requisition for \$13,500 had issued in your favor for the objects specified in your letter of the 12th July, preceding. On examining your estimate for rations, of the same date, it was found to exceed the sum appropriated by Congress, \$3,453. It was not possible, therefore, to make the remittances as requested by you, under that estimate. Moreover, if the estimates had not exceeded the appropriation, the regulations of the Department requiring that the remittances should be upon quarterly estimates, and no such estimates having been received, no remittances, for the want of the proper information, have been, because they could not, (consistently with those regulations) be made. I have been waiting till now, in the expectation of receiving such estimates, which, having not yet come to hand, and apprehending that inconvenience might result from any further delay, I have this day issued a requisition in your favor for \$12,650 50; \$5,000 payable at Charleston, and \$7,650 50 at New Orleans.

No further remittances can be made but upon quarterly estimates furnished by you, agreeably to the regulations; and these it will be essential to keep within the sum appropriated by Congress.

Col. Gadsden is appointed Commissioner to value the property which may be abandoned by the Indians, under the 5th article of the treaty. His commission and letter of instructions, are herewith enclosed.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To His Excellency WM. P. DUVAL, *Pensacola.*

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No. 19.

TALLAHASSEE, Oct. 1st, 1824.

SIR: On yesterday I had the honor to receive your letter of the 17th of last August, and confess that some remarks in it surprized me greatly. In the first place, I assure you the Agent did not pay one cent, either in money or cattle, to the chief Nea-Mathla, although he informed me he had funds in his hands—(I believe he said you had authorized him to draw for \$6,000.)

I did order the Agent to pay this chief, and was much disappointed when I found, on my arrival here, that it had been neglected. You state, "the Agent has rendered a statement of his accounts, by which it appears he has advanced, under your orders, on a contract made by you with Mr. Chaires, the sum of \$3,000." There must be, surely, some great mistake in this matter: for I never made a

contract with Mr. Chaires, (except for the rations, which was long since the Agent left this part of the country, and on which I did not advance him a cent, or agree to do so;) nor have I ever heard from the Agent that he paid the sum of \$3,000 to Mr. Chaires, or that he had made any contract with him or any other person, for the purchase of stock cattle. Long since the Agent left this part of the country, I was informed, by a letter from Mr. Chaires, that he had made a contract with the Agent, Col. Humphreys, for stock cattle, but he never informed me that the Agent had paid him one dollar in advance. Nothing more is known to me of the contract, nor has the Agent made any report to me of the fact, although he wrote to me on the 26th July, from St. Augustine. A copy of his letter I enclose to you. The Agent has never, as I now recollect, presented any of his accounts to me for examination or approval. I have been always ready to attend to my duty in this respect. The Agent received from me written instructions on the subject of receiving proposals on the 23d of May last, for furnishing of the rations to the Indians, as well as on the subject of contracting for stock cattle. My instructions directed him only to receive proposals, and to transmit them to me; and if any of the proposals should be approved of by the proper authorities, the party would be duly informed, &c.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Agent, dated St. Mark's, 1st June, 1824, and also a copy of a letter dated Tallahassee, 31st May, 1824, from Mr. Chaires to the Agent. Mr. Chaires' proposals I would not accept at 18 $\frac{1}{4}$  cents, as I informed you. I also enclose to you an extract of that part of my instructions to the Agent on the subject of purchasing stock cattle. My reasons for allowing the Agent, at his discretion, if it was necessary to do so, to advance \$3,000 for the stock cattle, was, that few men could purchase and incur the expense of driving a large herd of cattle so far into the interior; and those who had the means to make, would not, perhaps, engage in the contract. It is very important to act promptly with the Indians, in paying up what they claim under the treaty, without delay. The very circumstance of the Indians learning that their Agent was purchasing stock cattle for them, to be driven within their boundary, would induce many of them to remove cheerfully, who at the time were much dissatisfied. Besides, I was confident if the contract was made for cows and calves in the Spring, to be delivered this Fall, that a very considerable advantage would accrue to the Indians, as the cattle would be growing for six or seven months at the risque and expense of the contractor. Under this view, I gave the instruction just in the words written, which is all that was given on this part of the subject. If the five chiefs had gone with the Agent to Washington, and which I desired, it would have answered a good purpose. You well know that, during the absence of the chiefs, the Indians would not have acted the least improper; the chiefs would be, by the nation, considered as hostages in our hands for their good behavior, until their return, at least. Hence I wished the leading chiefs to visit you. It would allow me time to make, in

peace and quietness, all my contracts for their removal, and at the same time you would have made an impression on the chiefs, that would have confirmed them forever as our decided friends; but as the chiefs failed to go, and as the Indians were ready to take up arms, the Agent should never have left the territory without permission, under such circumstances.

I believe you will be perfectly satisfied with my arrangement and economy in executing the treaty; and whatever I do shall be performed with a single eye to the public interest.

I am, respectfully, &c.

WM. P. DUVAL.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN, *Secretary of War.*

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(Accompaniment No. 19.)

*An Extract from the written instructions delivered by the Governor of Florida, on the 16th of May, 1824, to Colonel G. Humphreys, Indian Agent of the Territory of Florida.*

“If you find it necessary to enable the person whom you may contract with, to furnish the stock cattle to the Indians, according to the late treaty, you may advance to him such sum as you may have at your disposal, not exceeding three thousand dollars, on his giving bond and ample security for the faithful performance of his contract.”

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(Accompaniment No. 19.)

*Colonel G. Humphreys to His Excellency William P. Duval, Governor, &c. of Florida, dated*

ST. AUGUSTINE, July 26, 1824.

DEAR SIR: After waiting at Tampa Bay until the 17th instant, for an answer to my application to you for a short leave of absence, without receiving one, I was led to the conclusion that your messenger had failed on the way, and believing your letter, if received, would favor my wishes, and believing also that the indulgence (although in some degree conditional,) contained in your letter of instructions of the 16th of May, might, in the exigency of my case, be embraced without impropriety or injury to the public service. I am induced to proceed without further delay, to the North—where, by recent letters, I learn that my presence is much required in a business matter of considerable importance to me. I shall, however, go by the way of Washington City, and be governed by such information or instructions as I may there receive from the Secretary of War. I have not now time to make a detailed report of my tour into the Indian country from the Bay. I can only say, that the land throughout where I visited, is wretchedly bad, and in my opinion cannot

long sustain the Indians, should any considerable number come from the West.

I am truly sorry to differ so widely in opinion from Colonel Gadsden, for whom I have the highest respect; but I conceive to withhold the expression of my sentiments on this subject, (although they are unasked,) would be to fail in my official obligations, and might possibly hereafter subject me to unmerited censure. I am further urged to the avowal from an interview I had a few days since with Miconopy, Jumper, and other Chiefs, near Okihumky. It seems evident that that article in the treaty providing for an extension of the Northern boundary, will be insisted upon by the Indians, and I feel it a duty to state, a failure in this particular on the part of the Government, will produce much dissatisfaction among them, and may lead to serious difficulty. It is due to the Indians, however, to say, that, as far as can be ascertained, they are perfectly pacific in disposition, and appear to place great reliance on the justice and fidelity of the United States.

I cannot close this letter without doing an act of justice to Colonel Gadsden, in declaring my belief that the story told me by Neamathla of the Colonel having advised him against the journey to Washington, is destitute of foundation in truth, and that it is a tale fabricated by the old man to justify his own discrepancy; this I judge from discovering on the subject a sort of concert between him and the Chiefs South. This is evident, though each avows ignorance of the other's sentiments, and says, he cannot act in the case without a meeting, thus clearly manifesting a wish to avoid the measure; but whether this proceeds from aversion to extend their acquaintance with the whites, or a fear of being entrapped, (as has been intimated to me,) I am unable to say—the latter is very possible, as they have still fresh in recollection the treachery practised on their nation, in a somewhat similar occasion, by the Spanish government, at St. Augustine, and they are not thoroughly capable of making a proper distinction between that government, and the one under which they now live—I will write again from Washington.

I am, with the highest respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant,

G. HUMPHREYS, I. A.

His Excellency WILLIAM P. DUVAL,  
Governor, &c. of Florida.

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(Accompaniment No. 19.)

*From G. Humphreys to Governor Duval.*

ST. MARK'S, June 1st, 1824.

SIR: Enclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit to you all the proposals made for supplying the Indians according to the treaty, with beef, flour, corn, and salt.



Those of Major B. Chaires of St. Augustine, taking into view the ampleness of his security, in connexion with the lowness of the price at which he offers to furnish the supplies, I could not hesitate to consider "the best," and have therefore, under your instructions of the 16th ultimo, advised him that his proposal for the entire ration will be accepted, should this mode of supplying be approved by the proper authority. Accompanying this you will receive a copy of his letter in reply. The proposal of Mr. Robert Mitchell of Pensacola, for the salt and flour part of the ration, would have been accepted as the lowest, had it not been saddled with provisos and conditions foreign to my advertisement, and had the requisites of that advertisement in relation to security (which Mr. Mitchell was well aware of,) been complied with. As it is, however, whatever confidence I might have in his declaration of ability to guaranty the performance of an engagement of such magnitude, I could not feel myself authorized or warranted to jeopardize the interests of the country, or the comfort of the Indians, by leaving the supplying of provisions to depend upon a contingency so precarious and unpromising, particularly as an opportunity presented to place the contract for the whole ration upon terms which appear highly advantageous to the Government, in the hands of an individual whose responsibility and qualifications are unquestionable and without exception.

With respect, &c. &c.

G. HUMPHREYS,  
*Agent for Indian Affairs.*

His Excellency, W. P. DUVAL,  
*Governor of Florida.*

I have never had an opportunity of writing or communicating with Colonel Humphreys since the date of this letter.

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

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(Accompaniment No. 19.)

TALLAHASSEE, 31st May, 1824.

SIR: I have just received your note, informing me that my proposals for furnishing the entire ration for the Indians, was the lowest, and accepted.

I presume the Governor nor yourself will doubt that my best exertions will be used to comply fully with the contract. Permit me to remark, however, that this contract, in the way which it has to be filled, is unwieldy, and no time ought to be lost. I hope the Governor will say, as soon as consistent, to whom the bond shall be given for the fulfilment of it, and the contract formally entered into; until that is done, it will be hazardous for me to purchase cattle, which must be brought from Georgia, or to make the necessary arrangement for the purchase and shipping of corn and salt. I shall nevertheless

risk the consequences, and commence making the arrangements necessary to be made, and continue so doing until advised to the contrary.

Houses for the reception of the corn and salt, must be prepared, which I presume will be done under your direction, at the expense of the United States. You will oblige me by stating whether my impressions are correct or not on that point. Should that be considered my duty, please let me know where they must be fixed.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

BENJAMIN CHAIRES.

Col. GAD HUMPHREYS,

*Agent Florida Indians.*

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No. 20.

*Extract of a letter from his Excellency W. P. Duval, Governor of Florida, to the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, dated*

TALLAHASSEE, October 2d, 1824.

The object of this letter is, to explain to you my objects and views in relation to the removal of the Indians, as well as the reasons for their immediate payment, under the treaty, of such sums as can be paid with justice and propriety before their removal. You have long since been apprised that the Seminoles were very much dissatisfied with the treaty. I therefore deem it prudent, before their removal, to pay them for their improvements according to the treaty, valued as you have directed. I intend to call the Indians to St. Mark's, and to pay them, and furnish as many rations at that point as will serve them on their march to the country assigned them. I have held out, as an inducement for the Indians to go in canoes by water, and thus provide for their own transportation, a certain sum of from five to ten dollars, for each canoe they should make for this purpose, which should be paid by me to the individuals who made them, after the acting Sub Agent should see these canoes, and report the size and number of them to me. I expect perhaps forty or fifty canoes will be ready in three weeks. I find it very difficult to purchase a horse of any kind here, and as some must be had, I shall send a man to procure a few in Georgia. The stock cattle intended for the Indians south, will be driven there as soon as I can ascertain any contract has been made for them. The gun smith, who should also be a blacksmith, I will procure, if the Agent does not. The ploughs, hoes, axes, &c. will be sent to Tampa Bay, as soon after the removal of the Indians as a vessel can be had to transport them from Pensacola, where these articles have just arrived according to my order. The Appalachicola Indians being stationary, ought to have their part of the \$6,000 paid to them immediately, and also their share of the an-

nuity. I have therefore made engagements to have them furnished with cattle and some sheep, as many of them now spin, and several of them weave, and also ploughs, &c. amounting to \$800, which was the sum allowed to them out of the \$6,000, and was much less than it should have been. Of the annuity, the Appalachicola Indians should be allowed \$1500 per year: for, on the reserves, there are 249 men, beside their women and children, and they are at least one-fourth of the whole population. Besides, these people will receive no benefit of the school, or the gun and blacksmith. I hope, therefore, as the power is with the President to say what proportion of annuity shall be given to them, that the facts above stated will have their due weight.

You will see by the contract which I made with Mr. Chaires for the delivery of the rations, that he was to issue only for ten months at Tampa Bay: my reasons for this was, that, by furnishing the Indians in this quarter with rations, it would induce them to sell out their crops, and add to the inducements for them to remove; beside, the ration is furnished by Captain Crupper one cent cheaper than those furnished by Mr. Chaires.

This step, I feel confident, was as judicious as prudent, and I daily see the effects anticipated. I have not as yet paid Captain Crupper, who has furnished all the rations at St. Mark's up to this time, one cent. On referring to your letter of the 20th of last April, you acknowledge the receipt of my letter of the 25th March, enclosing the estimate of expenses on account of Indian Affairs under my superintendency, for the first two quarters of the present year, which you say is admitted.

I have sent to New Orleans for the money mentioned in your last letter, intended for the objects mentioned therein, and amounting altogether to \$13,500. This was absolutely necessary, as paper money will not be received by the Indians, and the silver could not be had short of New Orleans. The moment I receive the specie it shall be paid over to the Indians, and they forthwith shall march to their future residence. This will be about the last of this month. You may rest perfectly satisfied that the *appropriation*, under no state of things, shall be exceeded, but every attention shall be given to the reduction of the expenses, consistent with justice and good faith to the Indians.

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No. 21.

*From the Secretary of War to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

October 8th, 1824.

SIR: I have received your letter from Tallahassee of the 31st of August last.

It would have been better if Mr. Chaires, the contractor, and yourself had agreed, definitively, upon the price of the ration, instead of referring it to the decision of the Department. You have, however, so unequivocally expressed your recommendation, that an increase upon the delivery at St. John's river, to fourteen cents, be allowed, and the offer by General Clark being for that price, and no person having offered for less, I have concluded to approve of your recommendation to allow fourteen cents the ration, for the number which may be delivered under the contract, at St. John's, deducting the one twentieth part of a cent, according to Mr. Chaires' own offer. The delivery, at Tampa bay and St. Mark's, will be at the contract price, to wit, eleven and a half cents per ration. You will forward to the Department the original contract, certifying to the solvency of the securities, and retaining, for yourself, a copy.

I received two letters from you, each dated the 12th July. In one, you say "you will appoint a disinterested and suitable person to ascertain the value of the improvements that may be abandoned by the Indians, &c."—in the other, "you should be much pleased if Col. Gadsden would value the improvements under the treaty. He could do better than any one I can obtain, and would give more satisfaction to the Indians, &c." On this recommendation, I accordingly appointed Col. Gadsden, as per letter of instructions and commission, forwarded to him through you, as per my letter bearing date the 11th ultimo.

I have no objection, however, to your appointment of Mr. Bellamy, provided you can make the proper arrangements with Col. Gadsden; in which case the allowance to Mr. Bellamy will be the same as that proposed to be made to Col. Gadsden. Your instructions under your letter of appointment, are approved.

I have issued requisitions in your favor under the several heads of appropriation, to carry into effect the treaty with the Florida Indians, \$26,105 50—\$12,604 50 of which being on account of the expense of rations. On the receipt of your quarterly estimates, further remittance will be made, according to the information conveyed in my letter of the 11th ultimo. The remittance for Indian improvements will be made when the report of the Commissioner is received, and approved.

All remittances on account of the Indian Department, are required to be made on estimates of the Superintendent. You will attend to this in future.

I have issued my requisition in your favor on account of expenses of your superintendency, for \$2,000, to be accounted for in your returns.

I have the honor, &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To His Excellency WILLIAM P. DUVAL,  
Tallahassee.



No. 22.

*From Governor Duval to the Secretary of War.**Extract of a Letter from Governor Wm. P. Duval to the Secretary of War, dated at*

TALLAHASSEE, Oct. 26, 1824.

The requisition for \$13,500. mentioned in your letter, [of 11th ultimo,] and the draft for the same on the Branch Bank of the United States, at New Orleans, were received and duly acknowledged.

I had long since applied to Col. James Gadsden, to value the Indian improvements, but the death of his venerable father, and his private affairs, induced him to decline acting. I therefore appointed John Bellamy, Esq. a gentleman of known reputation and standing, who has performed this disagreeable duty. The difficulty of reconciling the Indians to the late treaty, and to restrain them from outrage, has not been inconsiderable; but to persuade and threaten them into a peaceable removal from this truly delightful country, required the exercise of uncommon patience, time, and prudence. I now believe, confidently, they will go without force, but evidently with reluctance. I hesitate not to aver, that, even now, was I to leave this country, not one would move. When it is recollected, that the Florida Indians never were controlled until the United States took possession of this country, and that, even since, they have not, for the greater part of the time, had either an Agent or Sub-Agent with them, to inform and reduce them to order, it must be obvious that my duties have been as arduous as they are unpleasant. Many of the Indians speak of joining the Creek nation, and my opinion is, that several hundred will go north. I have not dissuaded them from this step, or encouraged them to leave the territory. That portion of the annuity which is to be distributed among the Indians who are to remove south, to the lands allotted to them under the treaty, will not be given to them until this removal. This will be an inducement to hasten their march, as they are informed by me, that, until they are located, no such distribution will be made.

I consider it would, however, be just and proper to pay them for their improvements on the eve of their departure. These people are extremely poor, more so than any Indians in all the southern country. The money distributed to them for their improvements, will furnish them with blankets, and such things as will render them comfortable, in some degree, on their march, and will give them a stronger desire to share the annuity. I have, therefore, sent to New Orleans for the specie, to meet this object, and so provide them transportation, (for they will not receive any paper money) and it is expected in eight or ten days.

In my letter of the 2d day of October last, the reasons were assigned for my not contracting for the delivery of rations at Tampa bay, for a longer period than ten months. The Indians, by receiving

rations at St. Mark's, have been induced to sell their crops, and, whenever the issues are stopped, they will be compelled to remove.

The commission and instructions to Col. Gadsden are received, as well as the drafts for \$12,650 50—\$5,000 payable at Charleston, and \$7,650 50 at New Orleans.

The certified returns of the rations that have been, and will be, delivered at St. Mark's, will, as soon as the final meeting with the Indians is over, be transmitted to you.

I have, according to the power given to me by your letter of the 17th day of August last, appointed Owen Marsh, Esq. acting Sub-Agent, for one year from the 1st day of September last. and he immediately entered on the duties of his office, and has continued to act much to my satisfaction.

I have but lately returned from the Appalachicola river, where I was compelled to attend to receive some stock cattle and sheep for the Indians residing there, and on the 10th of November next, the residue of the stock will be delivered to them: for all that I contracted for were not delivered on the 15th of this month, as I had expected.

These Indians are more civilized than any others in Florida. The sheep were purchased at their own solicitation in lieu of hogs, of which they have large stocks. The houses and fields of these people are equal to the best of the improvements among the white people in this section of Florida.

While writing this letter, I received one from Col. Gadsden, in which he informs me, that he has resigned his seat in our Council, and would not be in this quarter shortly, as he intended to complete the survey of the land allotted south to the Indians. I therefore took the liberty of opening your letters of instruction to him, relating to the valuation of the Indian improvements, and find that my instructions to Mr. Bellamy differed from yours so far only as the naming of the individuals that are to receive compensation. I directed the valuation to be made of each town. I was influenced in giving this direction, by knowing that many of the southern *Indians have no name*. The chiefs are named, but common men, generally, must perform some serviceable act before they receive any name. It is, with them, a mark of honor: hence it will be impossible, in many instances, to obtain the name of the Indians.

I intend to pay them off by towns, and will require each chief of a town to sign the receipt for the money paid to the Indians of his town, for improvements: this is the only way that this business can be satisfactorily performed. After the number of houses and improvements are ascertained and valued, the chiefs can then point out the men who are entitled to compensation, so that he cannot impose on me more than the number I have had valued; and it will be his interest to give satisfaction to those men who are alone entitled to compensation, by personally calling them up before all the town to receive payment.

No. 23.

*From Governor Duval to the Secretary of War.*

TALLAHASSEE, November 2, 1824.

I have been obliged to hire an express, to carry some instructions to St. Augustine, and Hamley's Old Store, relative to the issue of rations on the St. John's river to the Indians, and send by the same conveyance my several communications herewith enclosed. Not having received any report from the Agent, of his return to Florida, and understanding that he is confined in New York by ill health, I have appointed Samuel Garey, Esq. of St. Augustine, to attend at Hamley's Old Store, on St. John's river, to the issue of rations to the emigrant Indians, who may be most convenient to that point. I send you a copy of my letter and instructions to Mr. Garey. I hope in a few days to have all the Indians on their march South, who intend to go in that quarter.

I am, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

HON. JOHN C. CALHOUN,  
*Secretary of War.*

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(Accompaniment No. 23.)

*From Governor Duval to Samuel Garey.*

TALLAHASSEE, November 2d, 1824.

SAMUEL GAREY, ESQ.

Having understood that the Agent of Indian Affairs for the Territory of Florida is confined by sickness in the State of New York, and it being uncertain when the state of his health will permit him to return, I have, therefore, determined to obtain your services to superintend the issue of rations at Hamley's Old Store, on the St. John's river. I enclose to you an extract of a copy of a letter from the Secretary of War, to which I beg leave to call your particular attention.

You will be able to procure the forms mentioned in his letter by application to the proper officer, now stationed at St. Augustine, and the utmost exactness and attention in making out your returns will be required. In addition, I also transmit you instructions intended for your government, in the discharge of your duties, as for the acting Sub-Agent at Tampa Bay, and it will be proper for you to communicate with him frequently, which you may, no doubt, readily do through Mr. Chaires, who will be often passing between the two places.

Your compensation is not fixed, and all I can say at present on the subject, is, that no doubt is entertained but that the Secretary of War will allow you what is reasonable. He will be immediately made acquainted with your appointment. I hope that nothing on your part will be wanting to give satisfaction to the War Department, and to the Indians concerned.

I am, respectfully, &c. &c.

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

If you accept, and will discharge the duties required, you must not lose a day in repairing to your station on the St. John's river, at Hamley's Old Store.

W. P. D.

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(Accompaniment No. 23.)

*Instructions to regulate the issues of Rations at Tampa Bay, and Hamley's Old Store, on the St. John's river.*

1st. You are to issue no rations to any but to emigrant Indians, and those only who have removed, and continue to reside within their boundary. Children are to have only *half rations*.

2d. According to the instructions herewith enclosed to you, from the Secretary of War, you will keep a regular roll of all the emigrant Indians, according to the form used in the army, which you will certify once in two months, and deliver them over to Mr. Chaires, taking care to keep duplicate copies, at least two, which at different times you will transmit to me, or the acting Governor in my absence. The utmost care must be taken to prevent any Indian from drawing more than his rations, and never issue but to those who are present, unless the Chief of the town himself attends; in that case, you will then issue for the number of his town. But in all cases, you must first ascertain the number of each town or tribe, and you will direct them all to attend at once, so that you may *count them yourself, and prevent fraud* or imposition. You are under no pretence whatever, to issue more than four hundred rations daily at Hamley's Old Store, on the St. John's river, and six hundred rations daily at Tampa Bay. At the first place, the rations will issue for twelve months, from the 10th day of October last. At Tampa Bay the rations will issue on the same day, but continue only ten months.

3rd. If less rations should daily issue at either place, than are contracted for, and more should be required at the other, the supernumerary Indians at one point should be sent to draw rations at the other. After understanding what number draw rations, if in the whole they exceed one thousand, I must be informed as early as practicable of the number who are justly entitled to draw.

4th. As the rations have been due at both points, since the 10th of October, 1824, the back rations will *supply all the Indians who may be entitled to draw* for a considerable time, even if there should be fifteen hundred.



It will be prudent, not to issue all the back rations, until you can ascertain the whole number who claim rations at each point of deposit, and according to circumstances you will act as may seem best, in the distribution of these back rations.

5th. Whenever you ascertain the whole number of any town or tribe, entitled to draw rations. you will issue to the town so much beef, on foot, as they will receive of their rations, not exceeding sixty days, if they will take it, and as much salt, and corn, or flour; but the Indians must not be forced to receive more of either at one time than they are willing to take, and never more than sixty days rations must be issued at any one time. and no more should then be issued until the expiration of the sixty days.

These people are so careless and improvident, that it will be improper to make any issues for more than sixty days. and none must be allowed for a longer period.

In order to ascertain the weight of the beef. you will kill one of the smallest, and one of the largest, and take the average weight.

It will not answer to keep the Indians on the ground to draw their rations daily, for they would, in that event, make no fields, and their idle habits would be too much encouraged and confirmed.

With the contractor, Mr Chaires; you may make any arrangement as to the issues, not inconsistent with these instructions, or his contract, and, if by experience any change for the mutual benefit of all parties can be made, you will from time to time inform me. or the Agent, Colonel Humphreys, so that he may in his discretion act as he may think prudent.

You are not to permit any spirituous liquors to be sold at the place where the rations are issued. and it will be considered as a part of your duty strictly to guard against the sale of liquors to the Indians in your vicinity; and where the law is violated, to inform the Agent of the facts.

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

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No. 24.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

3d December, 1824.

SIR: Your two letters of the 1st and 2d of October last, together with an extract from yours of the 16th May, to Col. Humphreys, the agent, authorizing him, in his discretion, to contract for stock cattle, and to advance, if necessary, on account thereof, a sum not exceeding \$ 3000, together with copies of correspondence between you and Col. Humphreys and Major Chaires, are received.

I am satisfied that, in authorizing Col. Humphreys to make the advance above referred to, you consulted the public interests, and I would

have no hesitation in approving it, were it not that the act of Congress, approved 31st January 1823, provides that "no advance of public money shall be made in any case whatever," which puts it wholly out of my power to sanction it. The adjustment of this advance, therefore, will be an affair between yourself and the agent, in which I take for granted there will be no difficulty. You will receive a credit for it when your accounts show that the cattle for which this sum was paid, have been delivered. I have directed the agent to report himself forthwith to you.

Confiding in your discretion, and in compliance with your request, I have issued a requisition in your favor for \$ 4,500, the amount appropriated to pay for the improvements which the Indians may abandon; you will be particular in its application, upon the returns of the Commissioner appointed to value the improvements.

Your plan of providing canoes for the transportation of the Indians appears judicious. It is no doubt more convenient than would be the cost of horses. It is approved.

You will apportion the annuity among the Indians according to their numbers, giving to the Appalachicolas whatever may, upon this basis, fall to their share.

Since the remittance of the 17th August of \$13,500 I have issued a requisition, on the 11th September, for \$12,605 50, of which you were informed, and which has, I presume, been transmitted by the Treasurer, thus anticipating your demand for funds for the expenses of the Indian department, and for other purposes.

I have this moment received your letter of 26th October, and 2d November, together with the estimates for rations for the 1st and 2d quarters. Your appointments of Mr. Bellamy to value the property, and of Mr. Garey to issue the rations in the absence of the agent, are approved, and you will pay Mr. Garey at the rate of \$ 500 per annum (the salary of a sub-agent,) during the time in which he may be employed, and enter it as an item in the expense of issuing the rations.

Your report of your proceedings, so far, is satisfactory.

I am, &c. &c.

JOHN C. CALHOUN.

His Excellency Wm. P. DUVAL, *Pensacola.*

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No. 25.

*From Thomas L. McKenney to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office Indian Affairs, 28th January, 1825.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you, that a requisition was issued in your favor on the 3d inst. for \$7000, which it is presumed has been remitted to you from the Treasury.

Of this sum, \$5000 is to be applied to the payment of the annuity to the Florida Indians, and \$2000 to carry into effect the provision of the treaty relative to a School and Gunsmith, for the present year.

The press of business in the office has prevented you from being earlier apprized of the remittance.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

THOMAS L. MCKENNEY.

To His Ex'y Wm. P. DUVAL,  
*Tallahassee.*

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No. 26.

*From Governor Duval to the Secretary of War.*

WASHINGTON CITY,

February 11, 1825.

SIR: I have the honor to lay before you a letter from Benjamin Chaires, Esq. a gentleman of reputation and intelligence, residing in Florida, describing the country laid off for the concentration of the Florida Indians. I feel considerable interest for these unfortunate people; and, from the best information that I can obtain, I do believe they have not good land sufficient to support them. I hope the President will alter the northern line of the Indian boundary, so far as to give them the Big Swamp, near which the present line passes. This alteration will give entire satisfaction to the Indians; and justice and humanity require they should possess it.

I have informed the Chiefs, that they might repose with confidence on the justice of the Government. It was this assurance that reconciled them to the treaty.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

WM. P. DUVAL.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,  
*Secretary of War.*

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[Accompaniment No. 26.]

*Benjamin Chaires to Governor Duval.*

TALLAHASSEE,

13th January, 1825.

SIR: Having been called on to state my views of the country laid out for the future residence of the Florida Indians, can only say, that my knowledge of the country from observation is limited, having only travelled through it two or three times; but, sir, so far as I

have seen it, it is the poorest part of Florida; and a large portion of it generally inundated. There are interspersed through the country, small light sandy hammocks, which will bear cultivation a few years; but I know of no one spot of good land sufficiently large for one of several of the tribes or towns of Indians. My opinion is therefore clear, that the said Indians cannot possibly subsist on their present location; and that an extension of the line so far as to include the Big Swamp, which is a hammock, containing about five or six thousand acres of pretty good land, ought to be granted to them, which is all asked by them, so far as I have heard.

I am, very respectfully, &c.

BEN. CHAIRES.

His Ex'y WM. P. DUVAL.

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No. 27.

*From T. L. McKenney to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office Indian Affairs, 25th February, 1825.*

SIR: I have the honor of enclosing, herewith, a copy of the President's approval of the extension of the northern boundary line, as defined in the Florida treaty, and as recommended by you. You can now direct Col. Humphreys, the Agent, in regard to a selection of a location for his Agency, about which it appears, owing to a want of a salubrious spot within the hitherto ceded limits, he found some difficulty.

I have the honor, &c.

THOMAS L. MCKENNEY.

To His Ex'y WM. P. DUVAL.

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No. 28.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, TERRITORY OF FLORIDA,

*Tallahassee, May 26th, 1825.*

SIR: I regret to be compelled to report, that a murder has been committed by a Seminole Indian on the person of Mr. Swearingen, and that, owing to causes beyond my control as superintendent, some depredations have been committed by the Indians on the property of the whites residing in their immediate vicinity. No time was lost in



calling the attention of the agent to the subject, and requiring the aid of the military force at Tampa Bay, which measures I trust will put a speedy end to these irregularities, and restore tranquillity to the settlements on the Indian boundary. I am by no means of the opinion that these depredations, or even the murder, have been committed with the remotest idea of settled hostilities, but have arisen from causes inseparable from the difficulty which must always be met with in transferring a nation of Indians from one location to another, especially when such change is more one of necessity than of choice, and that, too, leaving a country highly desirable, from its situation, for lands where they have ever declared they could not live. There are no people more attached to their native soil than Indians, or who are more averse to emigration, even under the most favorable and advantageous circumstances for them. These causes have operated so forcibly, that one hundred and twenty Indians are yet reported to be west of the Suwannee river.

It has now become indispensably necessary to request your attention to the subject of subsisting these Indians; for, unless some provision is speedily made for that object, they must inevitably be plunged into the most deplorable condition, both from their new location and their well known improvident character. In a state of starvation, they will be driven to commit acts of depredation highly injurious to the interests of the Territory, which ought to be provided against by all means in our power; besides, humanity, as well a sense of justice, dictates that their women and children should not be left to perish. The issues on the St. John's, in Tampa Bay, and on the Appalachicola, (including the Indians not yet within their boundaries) have been hitherto 1800 rations per day. Having positive instructions not to exceed the appropriation on any account whatever, I have been compelled to restrict the issues in future at St. John's and Tampa Bay to 1000 rations, and on the Appalachicola, to 150 rations per day, affording to the emigrant Indians, for the rest of the year, specified in the treaty and the contract, not quite half rations, which, however, will be somewhat augmented in quantity by the distribution of the back rations on hand at the St. John's, for October and November, agreeably to my orders. I have, however, directed that no more back rations be given to Indians coming within the limits; but that they shall receive rations from the time they arrive, up to the date the contract terminates; although I believe that they are justly entitled to their year's subsistence, let them apply when they may. I am perfectly aware of the difficulties and distress which must ensue upon this order, but I am constrained to this course from the knowledge that even these issues will exhaust the appropriation. The issues on the St. Johns cease on the 10th October; at Tampa Bay on the 10th August; and on the Appalachicola river on the 30th June; after which dates the emigrant Indians have no possible means of obtaining subsistence, but through the bounty of the United States, until the crops come in. But, even that resource must fail these Indians, as they cannot have as yet cleared and planted new land; consequently, they will be equally de-

pendent for the next year's support, as they are during the present. I request that you will be pleased to take this subject into consideration, in all its bearings, and instruct me as to the course proper to be adopted. I will, however, take the liberty to suggest, if it can be done, that funds be placed in my hands, with authority to cause to be furnished, from time to time, at convenient places, such supplies of provisions as are found to be necessary, after the contract now in existence shall have been completed. I suggest this mode, because the contractor or agent will be more immediately under my control, and the issues will be confined to the quantity absolutely necessary. I have found, by experience, that the contract system for issuing regular rations to Indians cannot be relied on, and is productive of great inconvenience to them. It has been thus far attended with continual causes of dissatisfaction and complaint.

The orders in relation to runaway negro slaves residing in the nation; the order for the extension of the Indian boundary line; and the order in relation to persons selling spirituous liquors to Indians, have been attended to. Receipts for the funds transmitted to me have been regularly forwarded. My accounts and vouchers for disbursements in the Indian Department will be duly forwarded on the 30th June, by which date there will be a balance on hand equal to the payment of the debts which will then be due.

I enclose, herewith, documents, numbered from 1 to 11, to which I beg leave to refer you, as being connected with the discharge of my duty as Superintendent, and the subjects spoken of in this communication.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

GEORGE WALTON.

HON. JAMES BARBOUR,  
*Secretary of War.*

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No. 1.

(Accompaniment, No. 28.)

OFFICE OF THE SUP. OF IND. AFFAIRS FOR FLORIDA.

*Tallahassee, February 24th, 1825.*

SIR: It has been reported to me, that the emigrating Indians are still in Alachua, and at the Natural Bridge of St. Fee, committing depredations upon the property of the citizens. There are some of them located upon the east side of the Ansilla. You will forthwith send out runners, and take other measures to have them assembled within their proper territorial limits, from whence they must not be allowed to roam through the country at pleasure, giving constant cause of dissatisfaction and complaint. It is expected that every party of Indians, leaving their towns to enter the territory of the white inhabitants, will have a written pass or order, from you or the Sub-Agent.

The Indians themselves complain, that they are put to great inconvenience, by reason of the distance they are compelled to go after their rations, on the St. John's river, insomuch, that it is almost impossible for them to obtain them. When the contract was entered into, it was believed that a proper point had been designated for the delivery of these rations. You are required to give immediate attention, *personally*, to this subject, and, if the rations are not delivered according to the contract, notify the contractor forthwith, that none will be received, excepting at the proper places, for which he will be held strictly responsible on his bond. Touching these matters, you will make special reports to me in writing as soon as possible, addressed to me at this place.

I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. WALTON.

Col. G. HUMPHREYS,

*Agent Indians Affairs for Florida.*

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No. 2.

(Accompaniment, No. 28.)

*Florida Agency, April 6th, 1825.*

SIR: I regret to be obliged to report, that a murder in the neighborhood of Hamly's Old Store, on St. John's, has recently been committed upon a white man by an Indian, living near the Olewaha river; the cause which led to the outrage, or whether there was any provocation, I have not yet learnt, though there is much reason to believe the deed was wanton and unprovoked. On being informed of the offence, I sent for some of the principal chiefs, who promptly attended, and declared their unqualified disapprobation of the act. Indeed, so exasperated were they by it, particularly the emigrants who have settled on the Big Swamp, that much difficulty was experienced in restraining them, and preventing the infliction of summary justice, according to the Indian mode. But as the murderer is of the Seminole tribe, between which and the tribes from the West, there unfortunately does not appear to exist a perfect cordiality; I deemed it advisable, in order to harmonize and check if possible, an increase of unkindly feelings, to stop proceedings in the matter, until measures could be entered into to bring the different tribes to act in concert. The occasion, though a melancholy one, seemed favorable for commencing a union among them, so essential to their welfare, and the interest of the United States, and I accordingly detained some of the head men from the West, and sent for Miconopy and Jumper, who were understood to be absent in the first instance, but who it was said had now returned from the hunting grounds. Jumper was still out, and Miconopy confined to his lodge by severe sickness; of course neither attended; under these circumstances, I concluded to send Tuskehena-

ha (whom you know) to Miconopy, to ascertain his sentiments in relation to the murder, and whether he was disposed to join in bringing the perpetrator to justice. His conduct upon the occasion (as reported to me by Tuskehenaha,) was correct, and such as I had a right to expect. He said the murderer deserved death by their own laws, and although he was unable to go himself, to aid in carrying the law into execution, he should give his voice in favor of immediate punishment, and would sanction whatever the other chiefs thought it right to do. And it was resolved by the chiefs, that the offender should expiate his offence by death; and a party, headed by Tuskehenaha, proceeded to enforce the sentence. At the request of the Indians, I sent a young man named Breton, (who has been some time employed by me to herd the public cattle) as a witness; they desired this they said, in order to satisfy the whites, some of whom might otherwise doubt them. I strongly urged, that the murderer should be given up to be tried by the laws of the white people, but to this the Indians as strongly objected, as being contrary to their custom; they never attempted to take a murderer alive; it would be attended with danger, and might cause the death of one or more of their party, and on the whole, although I should have been willing to see them pursue a course more in consonance with the received notions of civilization, yet I could not believe it to be a point of sufficient importance, to authorize me to press it, at the risk of a total failure of justice. I, therefore, told them to pursue their own method. The party went, but did not entirely succeed, though there is reason to believe the object in view was in part effected; the fugitive was seen and fired on, but succeeded in reaching a deep swamp, wounded, as was evident from the blood found where he ran. I was yesterday informed, likewise, that all search of the friends of the fugitive (which has been constant since the day he was fired on,) has proved unavailing; and the conjecture is, that in attempting to swim the Okelewaha, (which is now very full,) in his wounded condition, he has been drowned, and such is probably the fact. I have conceived it a duty, to be thus explicit in stating what I know of the unpleasant affair, in order to correct the erroneous impression, which unwarranted and unauthenticated statements, that may be made in relation to it, might otherwise produce; and that the fact may be known, that there does not exist any thing like a national feeling, on the part of the Indians, justifying this outrage, but that a general sentiment of a decidedly opposite character prevails.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant, &c.

G. HUMPHREYS,

*Agent Florida Indians.*

GEO. WALTON, Esq.

*Acting Governor of Florida.*

P.S. I have this moment received information, that the body of Mr. Swcarengen's murderer has been found, in the swamp to which he fled when fired upon, and from circumstances detailed to me, I can entertain no doubt of his death.

G. H.



No. 3.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

*Office of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Florida,*

TALLAHASSEE, APRIL 14, 1825.

SIR: I had the occasion to address you on the 24th of February last, on the subject of having immediately removed within their limits, the Indians in Alachua and West of the Suwannee, who were committing depredations on the property of the inhabitants. I have just received information to be relied on, that the Indians have committed a murder in Alachua, and are destroying the property of the inhabitants and threatening their lives; preventing the Surveyors of the United States from the execution of their duty, and destroying their land marks. I had hoped you would have taken efficient measures, on the receipt of my letter above alluded to, and have had the Indians concentrated and regularly supplied with rations; but I am informed they are literally starving, and say that there are no rations to furnish them.

That such a state of things exists is painful in the extreme, and requires measures, on your part, of the most prompt and efficient character, to effect their concentration and relieve the inhabitants of this Territory from such painful apprehensions. I have written to Col. Brooke, on the subject of furnishing you with such aid as may, under any circumstances, secure the accomplishment of this desirable object. The inhabitants must be protected; and, from your situation as Agent, with the means which Col. Brooke will furnish, if necessary, renders it imperious on your part to secure them that protection from the Indians. I expect that you will not lose one moment in restoring order, and having the guilty apprehended, who have committed this murder, and otherwise depredated on the inhabitants.

The preservation of the lives of these people will only be effected by teaching them a proper obedience and submission to the authorities placed over them; and, unless this is done, they will continue to outrage the settlements until their doom will be sealed by extermination.

Enclosed you have a copy of the President's approval of the extension of the Indian limits, which will be satisfactory to them, and enable you to select a spot for the location of the Agency the most desirable.

You will acknowledge the receipt of this communication, on its reaching you, and accompany a report of all and every circumstance relating to these subjects, that have come to your knowledge, together with such measures as you may have or contemplate adopting, to relieve the Territory from such embarrassing and much-to-be-lamented circumstances.

I am, with the highest respect,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. WALTON.

To Col. G. HUMPHREYS,

*Indian Agent.*

## No. 4.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

*Executive Office, Territory of Florida,*

TALLAHASSEE, APRIL 14, 1825.

SIR: Information of a painful nature has been received from Alachua, purporting that the Seminole Indians have murdered a man by the name of Swearengen, and threatened the lives of other citizens, and are daily committing depredations on the stock of the inhabitants, and preventing the United States' Surveyors from executing their duties, and destroying their land marks. I had contemplated a concentration of this tribe, within the limits assigned them, would have been effected long since; but it seems that many are still West of the Suwannee, and others in Alachua.

The Department of War authorized the Executive of this Territory to use the troops stationed at St. Mark's, for the effectual removal of the Indians to their limits under the Treaty; but it was believed it could be effected without their aid. They have subsequently been removed, and were they here, the distance is too great to where the Indians are, to have them employed in this duty. I have this day communicated to Col. Humphreys, Indian Agent, requiring the immediate and effectual concentration of these Indians within their limits, and informed him that I should request you to furnish, if necessary, a force sufficient to that object, and relieve the inhabitants of this Territory from the painful apprehensions under which they at present labor. The citizens of the Territory must be efficiently protected, and I, therefore, call on you, in the exercise of your military command, to aid the Agent to bring to punishment the perpetrators of the murder of Mr. Swearengen, together with others who have threatened the lives and destroyed the property of our citizens, by a detachment of United States' troops competent to that end, and to effect their immediate removal within the boundary assigned them, which has been enlarged recently by the President of the United States.

I have the honor to be, &amp;c. &amp;c.

GEO. WALTON.

To. Col. G. M. BROOKE,

*Commanding U. S. troops at Cantonment Clinch.*

## No. 5.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

AGENCY, May 1, 1825.

SIR: At your request, I give a statement of what I know with regard to the suffering condition of the Indians, as stated in the report of the United States' Surveyor, which you have recently received from

the superintendent at Tallahassee. About the first of March, I issued to the Indians at Hamley's Old Store on the St. John's river, between six and seven hundred bushels [corn,] which, in conjunction with former issues, amounted to upwards of forty thousand rations that had been issued to the emigrant Indians after their arrival, to that period; and there never has been a period, since November last, at which time I arrived at Hamley's, to superintend the issues, that there had not been a sufficiency of corn of good quality on hand, and which has been as regularly issued when applied for by those entitled to draw; (with the exception of three or four weeks in March and April, which was occasioned by the loss of two cargoes at sea destined for supplies,) but even those losses very slightly affected the issues I was instructed to make. The sickness and mortality adverted to by the above report, is not attributed to the right cause, but from a conversation I had with Hicks, one of the principal Chiefs of the Mickasuky town, in February, I am induced to believe was owing to the irregularity of their young women previous to their emigrating, as Hicks and Tuskehenala both told me several of them had died on their journey to the Big Swamp.

Respectfully, your humble servant,  
SAMUEL Y. GAIREY.

Colonel HUMPHREYS.

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No. 6.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

TALLAHASSEE, *May 13, 1825.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my account of disbursements during the quarter ending the 31st of March, and also the abstracts of Mr. Marsh and Mr. Gairey, of the issues of provisions made at their respective posts. Descriptive rolls are likewise sent, by which it will be seen that the number of Indians who have received, and are entitled to rations, greatly exceeds the calculation heretofore made upon that subject. I was aware that there would be an excess, but was unable to determine how great, until I received the descriptive roll above mentioned, for which reason, an earlier report has not been made. Independently of the number borne on the rolls, there is one entire town (Chefirsico's) to be included, for which, probably about one hundred and twenty daily rations will be required. I take the liberty of suggesting the propriety of having all the surplus rations delivered at the issuing store on St. John's, as being much the most convenient point for those who are to receive them, and I am informed the contractor is willing to deliver them there at the same price which he is allowed at Tampa Bay, reserving to himself, however, the right

to make a question of equity whether he is not entitled to receive for a fair proportion of the extra rations, the St. John's price.

I am, &c.

G. HUMPHREYS,  
*Agent Florida Indians.*

GEORGE WALTON, Esq.  
*Acting Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.*

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No. 7.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

TALLAHASSEE, May 14, 1825.

SIR: Your letters of the 14th and 17th of April, by the hands of Tennelle, I had the honor to receive about the 1st inst. as I was on the point of commencing my journey hither to see you, partly in relation to the matters of which your letters treat, and also, in regard to others connected with my agency; and, as there appeared no necessity for postponing the journey, but on the contrary, additional reasons for prosecuting it, I concluded to defer answering your communications, until my arrival here.

You state in your letter of the 14th April, that you had occasion to address me on the 24th of February last, on the subject of having immediately removed, the Indians in Alachua and West of the Suwannee, who were committing depredations on the property of the inhabitants. Your letter, from causes to me unknown, did not reach me; its failure, however, if I am fully apprised of its contents, has not been the cause of public injury. I was sufficiently aware of my duty, as respects the removal and concentration of the Indians within the limits of the Territory reserved by them, to know that it was obligatory on me to make use of all the means placed within my reach, to effect this desirable object with the utmost practicable despatch; and, under this conviction, my efforts have been steady and unceasing; that they have fallen short of entire success, is true, and to be regretted; but I venture to aver, that there cannot, in consequence, be any censure fairly applicable to me; nor does it, indeed, appear to me, that blame can be attached to any one. The inconveniences (greatly exaggerated by reports, various and extravagant, according to the fears or dispositions of the reporters,) that the inhabitants of the country through which the Indians had to pass, have been subjected to, were, in a great degree, unavoidable, and inseparable, from the removal of the Indians; with them, as with all other people, the vicious and unprincipled amongst them, are only restrained in their evil propensities by the law, and the fear of a summary and prompt enforcement of its penalties; a restraint, which must necessarily, in a measure, cease to operate during their march, detached as they were, for convenience, in small parties,



sometimes without a chief to govern or control them. These considerations, it is true, do not present a justification of the Indians; for any depredations they have committed; neither do they furnish to the inhabitants any remuneration for the losses they have sustained; but they would seem to offer a reason, why unnecessary clamor upon the subject, should not be raised, and unwarrantable aspersions thrown upon the Government and its officers. That the inhabitants of Alachua, have, in some instances, suffered by the Indians, in their property, particularly their cattle, there is little reason to doubt; and, in one or two cases, it is said, that menace has been offered, but evidently to create alarm, without intention to injure; and, it is a fact, to be lamented, but cannot be denied, that, in the latter procedure, they have the authority of example from the whites. But one instance of outrage was ever reported to me by the injured party, (and that by R. Charles, Esq.) until my arrival at Alachua, about the first of the present month, which place I visited for the settlement of his difficulty with the Indian, which was easily effected. On this occasion, I heard that depredations had been committed upon the stock of several of the settlers, but heard no complaint from the inhabitants themselves, who were said to be the losers; and I venture to predict, that upon investigation, the loudest complaints will be found to have come from those who have either not suffered at all, or but slightly; of the motive of the authors, I have nothing to say.

Of the murder of Mr. Swaengen, I was not informed by any white person, until long after it had been communicated to me by Hicks, and the murderer pursued. For a report of the steps adopted in relation to that affair, I refer you to my letter of the 6th April, herewith sent, prepared at the time of its date, but withheld, in consequence of my determination to see you in person, which, on many accounts, appeared absolutely necessary.

With regard to the failure of the supplies for the Indians, I take the liberty to refer you to a communication from Mr. Gairey, the Issuing Officer on St. John's, as containing the information upon that subject, most entitled to be relied upon; from his letter, it appears that a deficiency of rations existed during a part of the months of March and April, but this deficiency was occasioned, in part, as he stated to me verbally, by his having been compelled to issue at his post, more than double the number of rations provided for and contemplated in his first instructions; this became indispensable: the Indians wholly declined going to Tampa Bay, at which place, it is proper to state, there was an adequate supply of flour, which they were repeatedly told would be issued to them on application to Mr. Marsh, the Sub Agent. Their objections to that point of delivery, were strong and reasonable; the distance is so great, for those residing upon the Big Swamp, and the road so excessively bad, that the small loads which they would only be able to start with, would be nearly, if not entirely consumed, before they could reach home; and thus their whole time would be taken up in transporting rations for present use, and no provision made for future subsistence. Under the present arrangement, by which they

get their corn in two or three days' journey, they have leisure for other purposes, and have made considerable progress in opening fields at their positions, where they will this year make crops; though so small, that there is reason to fear, the yield will fall short of furnishing a sufficiency for their support. The importance, however, of their diligent exertions, in planting, and providing for future wants, has been repeatedly and fully urged upon their consideration. That a portion of the emigrants have not, at one time since their removal, been fully supplied with provisions, Mr. Garey's letter evidences; but had they been in that extreme distress, that state of want which is represented, it is fair to presume they would not have neglected the certain and entire relief, which they knew awaited them at Tampa. The truth is, that, as it relates to provisions, the condition of the emigrants is infinitely preferable to that of the old settlers; amongst the latter, there is not, at this time, in one family in ten, a kernel of corn to be found; and it is a fact well known to those who have been much with them, that from about the first of April of each year, until the coming in of green corn, almost their sole dependence, for the vegetable or bread portion of subsistence, is upon contee and briar root, with which their swamps and thick woods greatly abound. Had Mr. May, a copy of whose report you forwarded me, penetrated into the nation, he would have found that the Mickasuky people, distressed as he viewed them, were much better off than their neighbors, the old inhabitants, he truth is, that his imagination, aided by his sympathies, has largely magnified their distresses; and, taking it for granted, because he did not see profusion, that famine raged, where in truth *disease* prayed, the reports that a large number had actually died of starvation; had he taken much pains to arrive at the facts, he would have found that not a single death had occurred, which could, in any degree, be attributed to the cause he alleges; and that, on the contrary, the true cause of the mortality which prevailed, was a *venereal*, said by the Indians to have been contracted at St. Mark's, previous to their emigration. Upon the subject of the interruption which Mr. May reports he met with from the Indians, I can only say, that his statement is, in its material points, positively contradicted by those of Hicks and other Indians, who were examined, after the receipt of your letter. Hicks asserts, that he did not, at any time, refuse to give the letters which Mr. May had, conveyance to me; but that he repeatedly offered to send a guide to conduct Mr. May to the Agency, provided he would leave his party behind; and even Mr. May's own letter admits, that such an offer was made to him, but, as he says, when he was about to leave the country; and on this account (as it is presumed) he declined it.

It may, with propriety be suggested, that, had Mr. May felt any strong desire to prosecute his undertaking, he would have availed himself of Hick's tender (late as he states it was made,) to have visited me, (which he could have done in a twenty miles' ride,) sooner than abandon his *job*, however arduous and profitless he may have found it, upon slight or doubtful grounds; had he delivered his letters, his difficulties would have been either wholly removed, or more fully con-

firmed; in the first case, he would have been enabled to proceed with his labors; and in the latter event, would have been furnished with a well established reason for the abandonment of his enterprise. I take occasion here to state, that, if Mr. May wishes to resume his surveys, he can do it with perfect safety, as it regards danger from the Indians; and if he deems it necessary, for his more perfect security, he can be furnished with an Indian escort.

Aside from the obstacles Mr. May says he has met with, I am apprised of no interruptions experienced by the surveyors, from the Indians. Capt. Stone, who is spoken of by Mr. May, I saw at Suwannee, on my way here; he mentioned having seen, recently, several small parties of Indians in his route, but said nothing of their having disturbed him; from which I am led to conclude, Mr. May has not rightly understood him. I am of an opinion, that a speedy and entire removal, within the lines of Chefixico, and the few straggling parties who yet neglect to remove, cannot be effected without the employment of force, as they have hitherto disregarded the repeated orders sent them upon the subject. It would have been very easy for the militia of the Alachua, (without bloodshed,) long ere this, to have driven in those East of Suwannee, had their Colonel been disposed to undertake it. If I am correctly informed, the services of some of the inhabitants have been proffered to him for this duty. I sent out two chiefs, the day before I left the Agency, the one to Chefixico, who is reported to have halted at Suwannee Old Fields, and the other to scour the country about the Alachua Settlements, with orders to say to all parties or individuals, found without the boundaries, that, unless they forthwith proceeded within the lines, a military force would be sent to drive them in at the point of the bayonet, or destroy them; what effect this message will have, I cannot say; but unless it produces the desired one, I conceive the employment of force will be unavoidable. You have now before you, sir, as far as I am able to furnish it, a compliance with your instructions of the 14th ult. The report adverted to in your letter of the 17th of the same month, came to hand; but the duplicate of your former communication, spoken of as accompanying it, did not reach me, and I am still without possessing a letter which I find I am injuriously supposed to have treated with neglect.

Before closing, I take the liberty to suggest, that a copy of Mr. Chaire's contract, which I have not yet been furnished with, and instructions, as to the course I am to pursue, in the event of his non-performance, and the failure of his supplies, might be useful guides to me in my future proceedings. It may not be out of place to state here, that the beef which has thus far been furnished, has been averaged and received on foot, and issued in the same way; this course was adopted in relation to the first gang of cattle delivered by the contractor, inasmuch as no emigrants had arrived, so that, had I resorted to the method of killing and weighing, to ascertain the average, the Government must have sustained the loss of such as were killed, as they must have been thrown away. I therefore thought it better to pursue the other course, and accordingly appointed Mr. Gairey, on the part

of the United States, to make the average; the same course was subsequently pursued, in relation to another drove, because it was found that the Indians decidedly preferred receiving the beef on the foot to having it killed. I should be glad to know if the arrangement meets your approbation, and whether it should be continued in future.

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

G. HUMPHREYS,  
*Agent Florida Indians.*

GEO. WALTON, Esq.  
*Acting Governor, &c. of Florida.*

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No. 8.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

*Tallahassee, May 19th, 1825.*

SIR: Your letters of the 13th and 14th inst. are received. No rations can be issued on the St. John's river, at a price exceeding the minimum rate, fixed by the contract with Major Chaires, excepting the four hundred daily rations; but if he is willing to furnish them at that price, no objection can arise to receiving them there, provided it is equally convenient with Tampa Bay, for the Indians to receive them. No back rations will, in future, be allowed to emigrant Indians now out of the boundaries, and no more than one thousand rations per day are to be issued hereafter, on any account whatever, until further advised.

In your future issues, however, you can distribute the back rations on hand for the first two months returned, for apportioning them properly among the Indians.

You will return to the agency forthwith, as the present situation of the Indians and of the settlements in the vicinity, require immediate attention.

Your accounts are returned approved.

I am, respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
GEO. WALTON.

Col. G. HUMPHREYS,  
*Acting Indian Agent for Florida.*



## No. 9.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

May 20th, 1825.

SIR: The enclosed acts of Congress will govern you in suppressing the sale of spirituous liquors to Indians, and you are more particularly referred to the second article thereof.

It is expected that your presence in the country will enable you to dispense with the services of Mr. Gairey; he will therefore be discharged, immediately after the issuing of provisions terminates, or sooner if you find it to be practicable.

I am, very respectfully, &amp;c.

GEO. WALTON.

Col. G. HUMPHREYS,

*Agent Florida Indians, Tallahassee.*

## No. 10.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Tallahassee, May 22d, 1825.

SIR: I enclose herewith, for your information and government, an order from the War Department, on the subject of runaway negro slaves, residing among the Florida Indians, claimed by citizens of the United States; also letters from individual claimants.

You will take all measures within your power to enable these claimants, as well as all others who may apply, to identify their property: and in all cases where the validity of the claim is clearly established, and no other obstacle arises to prevent it, the restoration of such slave or slaves, to their proper owner or owners, must immediately follow. Let the chiefs distinctly understand, that they are not to harbor runaway negroes, and that they will be required to give up such negroes as are now residing within their limits.

I am, very respectfully, &amp;c.

GEO. WALTON.

Col. G. HUMPHREYS,

*Agent for Florida Indians, at Tallahassee.*

No. 11.

(Accompaniment No. 28.)

*Tallahassee, May 25th, 1825.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters, of the 19th, 20th, and 22d instant, and deem it an imperious duty to state, in reply to that of the 19th, which directs a limitation of the number of rations hereafter to be issued, to one thousand daily, that the effect of such an abridgment of the stipulated supply of provisions, will be, at the least, loud murmuring and discontent; and that suffering among the Indians from hunger, which has hitherto scarcely existed, except in emigration, will shortly become a distressing reality; that these people can have but scanty, and indeed *no* certain means of subsistence, independent of the sustenance promised by the United States, until the opening of the fields and growing of corn at their new locations, will be readily supposed; and the entire inadequacy of one thousand rations, to the support of something more than sixteen hundred people, is too obvious to require comment; and I feel constrained to add my belief, that the emigrant Indians, conceiving themselves entitled by the treaty of the 18th of September, 1823, to punctual allowance of provisions for the specified time, at the rate of one ration per day to each individual, will not quietly submit to a non-performance, (on the part of Government) of this stipulation of the compact.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

G. HUMPHREYS.

GEO. WALTON,  
*Acting Governor, &c. of Florida.*

No. 29.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office of Indian Affairs, June 20, 1825.*

SIR: Your letter of the 26th ultimo, accompanied by your correspondence with the agent, numbered from 1 to 11, to the Secretary of War, is received. The subjects presented by you, to wit: the murder of Mr. Swearengen; the alleged depredations of the Indians upon the property of the citizens whose settlements lay in the route of their emigration; and the distress which you apprehend will be felt by the emigrant Indians, by the obligation you are under to bring the disbursements within the appropriation, to lessen the number of rations, have been (in the absence of the Secretary of War, on a tour of inspection, to the North,) submitted to, and duly considered by the President, who directs the following reply to be made.

It appears from the statement of the agent, Colonel Humphreys, that the death of Mr. Swearengen was an act of a personal nature,

and that it indicates no hostility on the part of the Indians against the whites; of which, sufficient proof is furnished in their having pursued the murderer, and executed upon him their own punishment, and made him atone with his life, for his outrage. No steps, under such circumstances, are deemed to be necessary, in regard to that act.

The spoliations committed on the inhabitants by the emigrant Indians, (if those who may have suffered, conceive such a step to be necessary,) can be provided for, only, by act of Congress, for their relief. Every attention will, no doubt, be paid by that body to any representation of their losses which they may think it proper to make. The President very much regrets that they should have suffered the slightest inconvenience.

The appropriation by the Congress, to carry into effect the treaty with the Florida Indians, it was hoped, would be sufficient to sustain the expenses of the emigrants. It is a subject of regret that appearances indicate its inadequacy, and especially as the means for that object, expense of rations, are limited to \$ 65,700, and beyond which, the Executive has no power to afford relief, except by a resort to the Indian Department fund, which is itself, so adapted annually, to the necessary demands upon it, as to admit of but a slight diversion of its means to other objects than such as are estimated for. It is still hoped the distress will not be so great as you apprehend it will, and especially as the agent, who is personally present, and has the means, it may be presumed, of judging with greater accuracy, thinks it will not. The President, however, with the view of guarding against the contingency, apprehended by you, directs that the sum of two thousand dollars be placed at your disposal to meet it; but, as it is believed it can be illy spared from the Indian Department, he directs that no part of it be called for, until it is clearly ascertained that the sum appropriated will have fallen short of the object; and not then, except to save these people from the suffering to which you apprehend they will be subject without it. The back rations may come in timely aid of the emergency; and it will be but just to pay the contractor an equitable additional allowance for transporting the provisions to any other point than the one which he contracted for; and in proportion to the additional expense which he may incur by the change. There is no objection, in the event of your having to resort to the extra allowance of two thousand dollars, to your purchasing the provisions in the manner you suggest. You will take care, however, to provide, in all cases, the necessary vouchers for the expenditures; and exercise the utmost economy in the disbursement.

To meet the contingency of any excitement which the agent may not be able to quiet, the commanding officer at Cantonment Brooke is directed to aid, on your requisition upon him for that purpose, in putting it down.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

THOS. L. MCKENNEY.

TO GEORGE WALTON, Esq.

*Sec'y and Act'g Governor of Florida.*

No. 30.

PENSACOLA, *July 14, 1825.*

SIR: I left Tallahassee on the 2d ultimo, to visit my family here and on business, intending to return immediately, fearful that difficulties might arise on account of the Indians, but have been detained by a severe attack of bilious fever, occasioned by exposure in traveling, from which I am slowly recovering.

I have thought proper to cause purchases to be made at once, of Indian presents, for the whole amount estimated for the present year. These articles are always necessary, and looked for by the Indians, and in their present dissatisfied state, are more than usually so.

The contract for issues to the emigrant Indians at the Appalachicola river, ceased on the 30th June, and they are now thrown upon their own resources for subsistence, without the means of supplying their wants. For the condition of the emigrant Indians on their southern location, I refer you for information to the enclosed copy of a letter from the agent, and to the letter which I had the honor to address to you lately from Tallahassee.

So soon as my health will permit, I shall cause my accounts to the 30th June, to be forwarded to the Department, and shall then return to Tallahassee.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

GEORGE WALTON.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,  
*Secretary of War.*

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(Accompaniment No. 30.)

CAMP, NEAR TAMPA, *June 13, 1825.*

SIR: I reached this place on the 12th instant, after a passage of fourteen days. I learn with regret, since my arrival, that the drought in this section of country, and indeed through to the Big Swamp, has been so severe, that the crops of the Indians are, in some instances, almost wholly destroyed. The emigrants particularly, it is to be feared, will make little or no corn, owing to their having had new fields to open, and the consequent lateness of their planting. I am greatly apprehensive that the failure of crops will produce extreme distress among these people, unless arrangements are adopted to continue to them the issues of rations, beyond the period stipulated in the treaty. It may not be necessary, and I trust it *will not*, to make extensive, regular, and stated issues; but humanity seems to require that some provision should be made to meet cases of actual want.

I avail myself of the opportunity afforded by the Logan, to give you the earliest possible information upon this subject.

Very respectfully, &c.

G. HUMPHREYS.

GEORGE WALTON, Esq.  
*Acting Governor of Florida.*



No. 31.

*Extract of a letter from Geo. Walton, Esq. Acting Governor of Florida, to Col. Thomas L. McKenney, dated July 27, 1825.*

“I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo. I regret, extremely, that circumstances have occurred, since the date of the letter to which yours replied, which tend to strengthen the opinion advanced by me, that much suffering, and consequently serious disturbances, may be apprehended among the Indians upon the discontinuance of the issues of rations to them. Copies of letters have been shewn to me from Col. Humphreys to the commanding officer at Cantonment Brooke, and from him to the commanding officer here, by which it appears that a detachment of one hundred troops have marched, upon the requisition of the Agent, into the Indian country; and that he deems their presence necessary to ensure tranquillity. The Agent has always expressed to me the opinions that were communicated by my letter of the 26th May, to the Department; that letter was founded in some degree upon his personal communications to me at Tallahassee, where he was present at the date of that letter, and was perfectly aware of its tenor; it is, therefore, inconceivable to me, how a different impression could have been received from his communications.

If it should be necessary to transport provisions for the Indians, to any other place than the one contracted for, the Superintendent would, certainly, be inclined to compensate the Contractor for any loss he might sustain by the change; but no such necessity has yet happened, nor is any apprehended, the changes having been, hitherto, highly favorable to the Contractor, and of course adopted by him willingly.

I am extremely anxious to return to Tallahassee, but am not yet sufficiently recovered to endure the fatigue of the journey; but hope in a few days to be able to set out, when I shall ascertain the nature and cause of the recent disturbances, by a visit to the Indian country, if it shall be necessary.”

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No. 32.

*From Thomas L. McKenney to Col. Walton, Secretary, &c.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office of Indian Affairs, August 10, 1825.*

SIR: Your two letters of the 14th ult. one directed to the Secretary of War, and the other to me, together with a copy of Col. Humphrey's letter to you of the 13th June, are received.

No doubt, the policy of purchasing the presents for the whole year, to the amount estimated for that period, was correct, especially in the present dissatisfied state of feelings among the emigrant Indians, whose condition, it is hoped, will be rendered at least tolerable, by the permission granted in my letter of the 20th June, to expend two thousand dollars for the relief of those who may actually need help. since the 30th June last, when their supplies, as stipulated for by the treaty, ceased. It might be well to husband these resources, and only apply them at such points as necessity requires; as the Indians, should they learn that additional provision was made in a general way, might relax their exertions, and by that means render the aid which is contemplated to be extended to them of but little practical value.

The steps you have taken to cut off the intercourse which the Indians are stated to hold with Cuba, are judicious. If the reports in relation to that intercourse be correct, it ought to be stopped, as it can only be fruitful in evil consequences.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

THOMAS L. McKENNEY.

TO GEORGE WALTON, Esq.

*Secretary and Act'g Gov'r of Florida.*

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No. 33.

*Extract of a Letter from Thomas L. McKenney to Geo. Walton, Esq. Secretary and Acting Governor of Florida, dated, "Department of War, Office Indian Affairs, August 19th, 1825.*

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo.

"The excitement among the emigrant Indians, as indicated by the employment of the military, it is hoped will subside, should it have been occasioned by their wants, when you contribute to their relief, by means of the allowance of \$2000, over and above the amount of the appropriation to carry the treaty into effect, as authorized by the President, information of which I had the honor to convey to you on the 20th June last.

"As early as you can do so, you will inform the Department of the causes and extent of the dissatisfaction among the Indians, and any information connected therewith which you may esteem it important to communicate."

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No. 34.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office Indian Affairs, September 15th, 1825.*

SIR: The Secretary of War directs, that the extension of the northern line of the Indian territory, in Florida, be made, by running and

marking the same, with as little delay as possible. It being represented by the agent, Col. Humphreys, that settlers are already appropriating lands, near to, if not South of, where the line will run, which, if not checked by some visible demarkation, may involve difficulties in their removal.

The extension of the North line will be made so as that a line, when drawn from its extreme Western point, will strike somewhere about that point on Gadsden's survey, which is denominated "flat lands filled with ponds." *The object being to take in the Big Hammock.*

You will communicate with Col. Gadsden, to whom the Secretary directs me to refer the execution of this survey; and in the event of his being unable, from any causes, to undertake it, you will employ Major Joshua A. Coffee, who is recommended by Col. Humphreys. In the event of your employing Major Coffee, it is understood that his compensation will be at the same rates as those allowed to Colonel Gadsden, and in all respects.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

THO. L. MCKENNEY.

His Excellency WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

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No. 35.

OFF. OF THE SUP. OF IND. AFFAIRS FOR FLORIDA,

Tallahassee, October 6th, 1825.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of August last, by the way of Pensacola.

I have not as yet made any extra provision for the emigrant Indians of this territory, out of the two thousand dollars allotted for that purpose, intending to husband with the utmost economy, as a dernier resort, to be used in cases of absolute necessity:—the sum is in itself so small, as to be of no utility if expended in a general manner.

Many of these Indians, resident in the reserve east of the Sawannee river, have recently abandoned their country; and I have received information, upon which reliance is to be placed, that most, if not all, of those who formerly resided between the rivers Suwannee and Apalachicola, are on their return hither. They state to me, as a reason for their return, that they have always been furnished with a scanty supply of provisions only, and which has sometime since ceased altogether; that they have no means of subsistence within themselves; that there is no game in their country; that it is moreover exceedingly unhealthy, exposing them to sickness and inevitable death; and in fine, that no part of the country allotted to them for a residence, is of such a description as to afford them comfortable settlements; or of such a quality, as will enable them to have stocks, or to raise corn. I have myself never been in that part of Florida, but from information that I can rely upon, I am inclined to believe that all that the Indians

represent respecting its unhealthiness and want of fertility of soil is strictly correct; and requires, in justice to them, to be thoroughly investigated. Many complaints from the Indians, respecting their rations, had reached me early in the Spring, and when the agent was here in May last, I informed him of the reports and complaints that had been made to me, all of which he assured me, were utterly false and without foundation. I then pressed earnestly upon him the absolute necessity of his paying an immediate and particular attention to tranquillizing the Indians; of endeavoring to dispose them to form permanent settlements, on the best lands within their reserve; and of seeing that they were supplied with provisions, according to the means at his disposal; and ended, by directing him to return to the agency forthwith, to carry these objects into effect; trusting that his personal presence and efforts with the Indians, would operate favorably in disposing them to acquiesce in the views of the Government, and relieve their distresses. I regret, however, that I am compelled to state, that these complaints and reports still continue in an increased degree; and are urged by the Indians, in justification of their abandoning their own country, and returning to the vicinity of their late settlements.

This district of country (formerly in the occupancy of the Indians) has been surveyed, in part sold, and is rapidly populating; and if the Indians cannot be restrained within their limits, occurrences of an unpleasant nature, between them and the white inhabitants, must infallibly ensue—complaints against them having already been made, for depredations committed upon the stocks of cattle, and fields of corn belonging to the whites. But as Governor Duval is daily expected to arrive in the territory, to resume the government thereof, I do not think it either proper or decorous for me to enter at length upon the present situation of the Indians, and their causes of dissatisfaction and complaint, which are both of a local and permanent character; and will in my opinion, to be thoroughly removed, require a total change in the measures hitherto pursued towards them. So soon as the Governor arrives, I shall make him fully acquainted with their actual situation, and with my views in relation thereto, leaving it to his experience and better judgment to decide what measures will be most proper to pursue towards them; and you may therefore confidently calculate upon being early addressed by him on this subject. I shall, however, in the meanwhile, do all in my power to restrain their mischievous propensities, and compel them to return to their lands.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

GEO. WALTON.

To Col. THO. L. MCKENNEY.



No. 36.

## OFFICE OF SUP'T INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR FLORIDA,

Tallahassee, October 18th, 1825.

SIR: Your letter of the 15th ultimo, directing the extension of the Indian boundary lines of their Southern reserve in this Territory, was received yesterday.

In regard to the extension of these lines, I have to state, that the Agent is under a misapprehension as to the place granted to the Indians, in consequence of which some of the Indians have, as I understand, been improperly located; and which has given rise to his report, alluded to in your letter, that settlements of whites were forming within the Indian limits. In the Alachua (a district of country so denominated) there are two places which, from a partial similarity of names, have been frequently confounded with each other: the one is called the *Big Swamp*, and lies North of, but near to, the Indian Northern boundary line; the other is called the *Big Hammock*, and lies near to and West of the Indian lands. The Agent contends for the occupation of the *former* under the President's order, but an extension of the *lines according to that order*, cannot be made so as to embrace it, and will, when made, include only the *latter*. This was fully explained to the Agent while at this place in May last; and Col. Gadsden, who was then also present, demonstrated beyond the possibility of a doubt, that it was so intended by the President, who, it is evident, by comparing his order with the map of Colonel Gadsden's survey, thoroughly understood the subject; and yet it seems, from your letter, that the Agent (for he has never thought proper to address me on the subject, nor to inform me of intrusions by white settlers on the Indian lands,) still persists in his erroneous construction of the order in question; the only grounds that can be assumed for which is, that in the President's order the term *Big Hammock*, or *Swamp*, is used; (in your letter of the 15th ult. it is more definite, being called the *Big Hammock* only;) but then the slightest reference to the manner in which the lines are ordered to be extended, leaves not the shadow of doubt as to which of the two is meant. It is, however, proper at the same time to state, that the Indians themselves have always contended for the grant of the *Big Swamp*, and this fact no doubt has measurably contributed to continue the Agent in his error as to the place actually designated for the occupancy of the Indians; and until I had conversed with Col. Gadsden, and examined his map, I was myself under an impression that the *Big Swamp* was the place intended to have been granted.

As the matter now stands, the inhabitants of Alachua, some of whom are settled near to the Indian Northern boundary line, complain loudly that the Indians are suffered to locate on lands without the limits of the reserve; which is and must continue to be the fact, unless the President shall be pleased to extend the Indian boundaries, so as to include the *Big Swamp*.

Colonel Gadsden is expected to arrive by the first proximo, and from his having run out these lines, added to his perfect knowledge of the topography of the country, I deem it important that he should now be appointed to extend them, and shall accordingly endeavor to prevail upon him to accept the appointment under the order of the Secretary of War.

I have the honor, &c.

GEORGE WALTON.

Col. THOMAS L. MCKENNEY.

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No. 37.

OFFICE OF SUP'T INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR FLORIDA,

*Tallahassee, October 21st, 1825.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose for your information, a report made to me by Mr. Doyle, respecting the Indians in Florida. This gentleman has resided for many years previous to, and since the cession of Florida to the United States, amongst the Indians recently inhabiting this section of the Territory, and is, therefore, not only acquainted with the Indian character and disposition in general, but is known personally to these Indians and their Chiefs. It had become necessary for me to employ a confidential person to endeavor to collect the fugitive Indians at some point where my message and orders could be communicated to them, and also to ascertain, as far as practicable, directly from themselves, their immediate causes of complaint, and their own views in regard to the future. From his personal good character, added to these reasons, I deemed Mr. Doyle to be the most suitable Agent I could engage in this business, and he was accordingly employed by me, and will be continued in employment, if necessary, until I am relieved in the exercise of the government of the Territory, by Governor Duval, or am instructed by the Department as to the measures proper to be pursued, which I shall anxiously expect. In the mean time I have determined, as the only course left to save these Indians from starvation, and the settlements from exposure to depredations from them, caused only by their necessitous condition, to place Mr. Doyle at or near the Suwannee River, with the double object of preventing the Indians from entering the settlements of the whites, and to furnish them with some supplies of corn for their wives and children.

I am convinced they cannot be concentrated within their limits without the aid of military force, unless some means of subsistence be there provided for them; in which case I believe they would comply with whatever might be required of them. From representations made to me on which I can rely, the situation of these unfortunate human beings is miserable in the extreme, and requires prompt and

effectual relief from the humanity, if not the justice of the Government, and which I trust will be extended to them.

If the President shall deem it expedient, I consider the present moment as one favorable for holding a treaty with the Florida Indians, having for its object their immediate removal to lands west of the Mississippi River, either in a body, as a nation by themselves, or to be incorporated with the Creek nation in their contemplated removal. So far as it regards obtaining the consent of the Indians, (not only those in the Southern reserve, but of those on the Appalachicola River,) I believe either of the proposed plans to be feasible. Such a measure would be productive of the most important advantages to themselves, by fixing their location permanently in a healthy and productive district of country, and in ameliorating their present distressed and dissatisfied condition, and likewise be of incalculable advantage to the interests of the Territory itself. In suggesting and recommending this measure to the Government, I am confident in the expression of the opinion, that I speak the views and sentiments of Governor Duval, and not only of his, but those of the most enlightened and intelligent men in the Territory.

Believing that this measure, if properly pursued, will arrive at the happiest results in affecting a more favorable location for these Indians than their present one, I deem it important that, in the event of a treaty being held, it should be conducted by persons having no private interests or feelings to consult, and who are acquainted with the Indian character, and known personally to the Chiefs.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

GEORGE WALTON.

To. Col. T. L. M'KENNEY,  
*Washington, D. C.*

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(Accompaniment, No. 37.)

TALLAHASSEE, 20th October, 1825.

SIR: In compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I have to inform you, that, on Monday last, I had all the scattering Indians in this vicinity collected at the Assylla creek, at a point thirty miles distant from this place, about thirty in number, men, women, and children. Some days previous to this meeting, I despatched runners to other parties of Indians, on or near the Suwannee, desiring them to hold themselves in readiness to march with this party to their own lands in Florida. As these Indians had not presented themselves at the agency, I told them they would be furnished with rations here, to enable them to go there, and that, on their arrival, their maintenance

would be allowed them for some time; under this assurance, all the Indians I saw, were willing to go.

On the day of receiving your instructions to collect those Indians, I had an opportunity, by a trusty fellow, to inform *Chiflixico Hadjo*, the Chief of Tallahassee, who has been encamped at the Suwannee river since his departure from this place, last Fall, that it was your positive orders to move immediately into his own land. He made the movement accordingly, and proceeded with his party, consisting of one hundred persons, men, women, and children, within a day and a half's journey of Tampa Bay. From this place, he sent for a supply of provisions, in order to enable him to pursue his route to the Agency. His messengers were furnished by Hicks, the principal Chief of the Seminoles, with one beef and a small quantity of corn—about two day's rations: with a message, that that supply was all he could expect there. In consequence of which, one half of his party instantly quit him, and re-crossed the Suwannee, to their old camping ground. A few days previous to this event, about sixty others returned from the neighborhood of Tampa, and also crossed this river. Those Indians are scattered in different directions, from sixty to seventy miles East of this place, and, no doubt, many of them will shortly make their appearance in this vicinity.

I have, agreeably to your instructions, particularly examined several Indians, to ascertain the cause of the universal discontent that seems to prevail amongst them, and their reasons for not occupying the lands allotted them by Government. From the uniform reports of those people, and from many white men, I think it my duty to state, fully, their objections, for your Excellency's government.

1st. That the lands allotted to them by the treaty, is too poor to make their bread on.

2d. That there is no running water in the country; and, from their knowledge of pond water, in hunting excursions, disease and sickness must ensue.

3d. That a sufficient maintenance has not been issued at the Agency for those Indians that did present themselves there, many of whom have returned from thence.

4th. That a fair distribution of the funds allowed them by Government, has not been attended to by either their own Chiefs or the white men.

5th. That many, who have for several years resided in the vicinity of the Reserve, have not as yet moved into it, and still object to do so.

6th. That the land allowed them by the Treaty, was partly forced on the Chiefs, and that the Indians never agreed to give up the land.

I now very much fear it will be difficult to induce them to go on this reserve; nothing will do it but a supply of provisions, and in their present distressed state, it would have a good effect. The Indians now collected at the Assylla wish to go on to the Chattahoochie; and they say all the others that have lately crossed the Suwannee river, intend to go there.



I found all those Indians humble, and I believe would be willing to go to any place where they could find good land and water. It would be a most favorable moment to press on them the idea of crossing the Mississippi.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

EDM. DOYLE.

His Excell. GEORGE WALTON,  
*Acting Gov. of the Floridas.*

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No. 38.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office Indian Affairs, October 31st, 1825.*

SIR: I am directed by the Secretary of War to call your attention to the subject matter of a letter addressed to me by Acting Governor Walton, on the subjects of the complaints made to him by the Florida Indians, in regard to their rations, and their return upon the borders of the territory ceded by them, and from which it was expected they had finally emigrated.

The Secretary directs that you take measures, also, to ascertain the capacity of the territory allotted to them for their support, and report, as early as possible, the result of your investigations upon all those points, to the Department.

I have, &c. &c.

THO. L. MCKENNEY.

To His Excellency WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

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No. 39.

*Office of the Superintendent of Ind. Affairs for Florida,*

*Tallahassee, Nov. 18, 1825.*

SIR: I have lately received from the Issuing Officers at Tampa Bay and the St. Johns' River, the abstracts of issues of rations to the emigrant Florida Indians; by which it appears that the amount of issues during the last six months at the St. John's, and four months at Tampa Bay, have amounted to twenty-five thousand two hundred and twelve dollars, fifty-seven cents; and Mr. Chaires, the Contractor, has produced to me the receipt of the Agent, specifying the delivery of a further quantity, which remain on hand, making the whole sum amount to thirty-one thousand and twenty-five dollars and eighty-two cents.

It will be perceived, by the instructions to the Agent and the Issuing Officers, copies of which have been transmitted to the Department, and

a duplicate of the latter of which is herewith enclosed, that the issues of rations has greatly exceeded the number which, in the extreme case, was calculated upon by the Department or the Superintendent, the average amounting to 1,480 per diem, instead of 1,000. At the former settlement with the Contractor, the excess above a thousand per diem was paid for, but at the same time the instructions of the 19th May were shewn to him, as an assurance that, at no future settlement would such an indulgence be granted. It further appears to me very extraordinary, under the circumstances, that there should have been permitted, as is the fact, a large amount of rations to accumulate and remain on hand at Tampa Bay, while, at the same time, there were daily issues at the St. John's, of nearly six hundred rations beyond the number stipulated in the contract.

I have also lately received a letter from Mr. Charles Pindar, a gentleman now residing in Tallahassee, a copy of which, together with its enclosure, is also herewith enclosed, which seems to charge unfairness in the manner of procuring the contract, and to promise further disclosures, if demanded. This communication being addressed to me, officially, I have considered it my duty at least to communicate it to the Department, suspending, in the mean time, the settlement with the Contractor, in order that the Department, being possessed of all the circumstances, may instruct me particularly as to my future conduct, as well as to put me in funds to complete such settlement as may be directed to be made.

I enclose copies of letters from the Agent to the Superintendent and to the Contractor, on the subject of the issues of rations.

I have the honor to be,

With perfect respect,

Your very obedient servant,

GEO. WALTON.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,

*Secretary of War.*

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(Accompaniment No. 39.)

ST. AUGUSTINE, August 10, 1825.

SIR: In answer to your letter inquiring what amount of provisions is necessary to complete the issues to the emigrant Indians, I have to state that there is still due as follows, (to wit.)

Of bread stuffs and salt	-	-	37,080 rations
And beef	-	-	105,066 do

This amount does not appear to be required to complete the 1000 rations per day specifically called for in your contract; but owing to the great excess of provisions necessarily issued and sanctioned by the superintendent, over and above what was originally contemplated,

there exists the deficiency above stated to carry the issues to the end of the year, which, although I am not instructed on the subject, I presume it is expected by the government you will furnish.

Your humble servant,

G. HUMPHREYS,

*Agent Florida Indians.*

BENJAMIN CHAIRES, Esq.

*Indian Contractor.*

(Accompaniment No. 39.)

FLORIDA AGENCY, *October, 1825.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, the abstracts of issues of provisions to the emigrant Florida Indians, up to the 10th of the present month; completing the period specified in the treaty, as well as that limited by the orders of the Superintendent. You will perceive, by the abstracts of Mr. Marsh, that his issues for the last two months have exceeded the per diem number, (600) directed to be given out at his station at Tampa Bay. This was essentially necessary, owing, as he states, to the increased number of applicants who were entitled to draw; and as his previous issues have fallen far short of the number authorized by the Governor's instructions, this small excess does not, as I conceive, amount to what appears a departure from the spirit of those instructions.

There is still at that post, a surplus of provisions on hand, which must await your directions; Chifixico Hadjo has not yet arrived; I have however received a message from him, saying, that he will be here in the course of four or five days; he is on the way, but is obliged to travel slow, on account of his stock. He will expect provisions when he arrives, but according to your instructions of the 19th May last, they cannot be given to him, as the period for making the last issue, will have passed.

This exclusion of his town, from the benefit (which other emigrants have enjoyed,) of rations, however just it may be, will nevertheless, I am constrained to believe, produce dissatisfaction; particularly as it is known to the Indians, that provisions sent for their use, as they understand it, remain unissued at Tampa. I take the liberty to suggest, as a means of preserving that contentment, which now pretty generally prevails in the nation, and as a measure of humanity, that the provisions on hand at Tampa, may be given out to Chifixico's people, and to such others as appear to stand most in need: it can be no object to the government to retain them, and they may be of considerable service to the Indians; besides which, if they are kept much longer in store, they will become damaged, and of no value to any one.

It was too late, when I reached here, from Tallahassee, for me to be able to apprise Mr. Gairey of your instructions limiting the number of

rations, in season for him to confine his issues for the two months, commencing 10th June, within the limit; the excess, however, is not very great, and his aggregate for that period falls greatly below his former issues; his subsequent issues are conformable to instructions.

Since writing the above, Chifixico Hadjo and his people have arrived, and in so destitute a condition, as it regards provisions, that I have deemed it a duty to direct an issue to them for the two months commencing the 10th instant, without waiting your answer to my foregoing suggestions on the subject; not doubting that the steps, under the circumstances, must be fully approbated.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

G. HUMPHREYS, *Agent.*

GEO. WALTON, Esq. *Acting Gov. of Florida, Tallahassee.*

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(Accompaniment No. 39.)

*Charles Pindar to Col. Walton.*

TALLAHASSEE, 12th Nov. 1825.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose to you a document, in return for which I gave a receipt for five thousand dollars, and which I offer to you as an entering wedge into an investigation of peculiar importance to the interests of the United States in your Department; and which, after having taken a copy, I beg you will do me the favor to return to me by the bearer.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very ob't humble serv't.

CHARLES PINDAR.

Col. GEO. WALTON,

*Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

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(Accompaniment No. 39.)

*Benjamin Chaires to Charles Pindar.*

TALLAHASSEE, 30th May, 1824.

I promise to pay to Mr. Charles Pindar, or order, the sum of five hundred dollars, on my obtaining and completing the contract for furnishing the Indians with beef, &c. as per proposals requested by Col. Gad Humphreys, Indian Agent, published in the Pensacola Gazette, under date of 22d May, 1824. in consideration of the said Charles Pindar withdrawing his proposal.

BEN. CHAIRES.



No. 40.

*T. L. McKenney to Col. Walton, Secretary, &c.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office Indian Affairs, Nov. 28, 1825.*

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 18th ultimo, on the subject of the limits which are assigned to the emigrant Florida Indians, and the doubts in relation to them. To remove all difficulty on this subject, I have the honor to enclose a copy from the map. The first extension of the Northern line, *Northwardly*, from the survey by Col. Gadsden, limits, I presume, your views and his of the case; but you will see that this extension of the Northern line, North, has been subsequently ordered to be run in a *Westerly direction* to a point as indicated in the black lines, far enough West, as that, when an angle made from a line, to run from thence to the "*flat lands filled with ponds*," it will embrace the Big Hammock.

Will not this extension furnish lands fit to be inhabited, and of sufficient productiveness and salubrity to support the Indians? It was Governor Duval's opinion that it would.

I have submitted your letter of the 21st ultimo, to the Secretary of War, with the enclosed copy of one to you from Mr. Doyle. You will be replied to soon.

I have the honor, &amp;c.

THOMAS L. MCKENNEY.

To GEO. WALTON, Esq.

*Acting Governor of Florida.*

No. 41.

*Extract of a Letter from His Excellency Wm. P. Duval, Governor of Florida, to Col. Thos. L. McKenney, dated*

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 2d, 1825.

Your letter of October 31st, was received by the last mail. The situation of the Indians on my return from Kentucky, (where I have been for my family,) has produced much surprize and painful regret.

The Indians had removed, and were satisfied, when I left Florida; no complaint existed, on their part, against the government, and none on the part of the white inhabitants against the Indians.

The arrangements which I had made for supplying the emigrant Indians with rations, was ample. Near three months' back rations were due to them before they reached the country assigned to them

by treaty. With the back rations and 1000 daily rations to be issued—400 at Hamley's Old Store, on the St. John's river, and 600 at Tampa Bay, I was impressed, strongly and confidently, that no want of provisions would be felt by the Indians entitled, under the treaty, to draw rations.

Long before their removal, under my own direction, rations had been furnished abundantly to the emigrant Indians. No complaint was heard from any quarter; and if you will examine the amount of rations returned personally by me last winter at Washington, you may easily make the fair estimate of what amount of rations ought to issue, taking into your calculation *the back rations due daily on the contract with Mr. Chaires.*

My instructions to the Agent have not been attended to: I directed him, in my instructions, not to exceed 400 rations, daily, at Hamley's Old Store, on the St. John's river, because the price of the ration was greater at that point, than at Tampa bay.

Under no pretence was the Agent to issue more rations than had been specifically contracted for, unless by the order of the Superintendent. By referring to Col. Walton's letter of the 18th November, to the Secretary of War, you will see how greatly the Agent has exceeded my instructions as to the issues at that point.

You will recollect last winter, when we were about to have the Indian boundary extended, which I considered necessary for their support, that the map of their land, assigned to them by the late treaty, as surveyed by Col. Gadsden, and transmitted to the War Department, could not be found; hence arose some doubt as to the name of the place intended to be given to the Indians, by extending their Northern line. Enclosed is a sketch of the Indian boundary, as surveyed by Col. Gadsden. The black-dotted lines, from the Western extremity of Col. Gadsden's Northern line to A, (see sketch) and from thence South, will include the Big Hammock, as contemplated by my recommendation. The red-dotted line from the Western extremity of Col. Gadsden's Northern line, running North, and from thence East to the Ocklewaha river, will embrace the Big Swamp, should the Executive decide to leave the Indians in possession of it. The line to be surveyed, as lately ordered by the Department of War, will embrace the Big Hammock, the country intended and designed for the Indians, and lying West of their present boundaries. The Big Hammock has, however, by the Agent, been confounded with the Big Swamp, lying North of the Indian limits, and as an Agent of government known to the Indians as such, he has placed them in possession of that country. Here the Agency has been established; here the Indians have constructed their new habitations, and commenced their permanent improvements. The difficulty, therefore, of a removal, must be apparent, and, it is apprehended, cannot be done without the exercise of authority. Distrust will be excited on the part of the Indians, impressing strongly on their minds something like double dealing and deception on the part of the general government. The location, however, is extremely objectionable, and never

contemplated by me in any of my recommendations; on the contrary, I have uniformly endeavored to prevent it. The Big Swamp borders on the Alachua, a fine district of country, rapidly populating, and its vicinity, to a white population, will engender, as it has already, difficulties between the citizens and Indians. To prevent this, their removal as far South as possible was always contemplated by the general government, and it was deemed important by the Commissioners, at the treaty, as well as myself, that the Northern line should not extend to the Big Swamp.

The Indians have been placed, however, in the possession of it, and it is now left with the President to decide, whether they shall be permitted to remain, and a new line run accordingly, so as to embrace it, or whether the line contemplated by your last letter, (conformable to my recommendation,) so as to embrace the Big Hammock *only*, shall be surveyed, and the Indians ordered within their limits, the government being prepared at the same time to force obedience. As a preparatory measure in execution of this, or as a prudential one, under any determination of the general government, I cannot too strongly recommend the establishment, immediately, of a military post on the South frontier of Alachua: such an arrangement would give confidence to the emigrant inhabitants of Alachua; prevent any disturbances between the citizens and the Indians, if they should be permitted to remain in possession of the Big Swamp; but, should the government order the Indians within the limits designated by the late treaty, and recommended by me, the troops will be on the spot to enforce obedience, if resistance is made by the Indians. I trust my views on this subject will meet the approbation of the Secretary of War: for the peace and essential interests of this territory strongly require the adoption of this measure, and that quickly. The investigation that I am directed to make on the complaints of the Indians, in regard to their rations, will be commenced and conducted in conformity to the instructions I shall receive from the Department, although I would prefer some other person should make the examination. At present the Legislative Council is in session, and it will be some weeks before I can leave Tallahassee. Whatever the Department may direct, my presence will have great influence with the Indians, in effecting its execution. The two companies of artillery stationed at St. Augustine, might be ordered to Alachua, for there can be no reason for continuing them at St. Augustine, and perhaps there is not a point in all the Southern country where they would not be more useful. I am directed by your letter of the 31st October last, to ascertain the capacity of the territory allotted to the Indians for their support, and report as early as possible, to the War Department. The measure directed by the Secretary, was attended to particularly by me before I visited Washington last winter. From the reports of several Agents whom I sent to examine the Indian territory, as originally surveyed, to ascertain whether there were sufficient good lands for cultivation within their limits, (for I had doubts on this subject,) I recommended the extension of the

northern line, as you will see by the sketch, to A, thence running South so as to embrace the Big Hammock. I was then, as I am now, completely satisfied this addition will afford good land sufficient for the support of the whole of the Seminole nation. If this is not satisfactory to the Department. and if it should be requested, I will go myself, and make the examination. and report as directed. My feelings towards the Indians are kind and liberal, and my conduct towards them has always procured me their confidence and respect. I would not withhold from them that justice and humanity which their unfortunate situation demands, and which the policy and honor of my government has so liberally extended to this suffering people. If ample powers are given to me, and such means provided as I have recommended in this letter, I feel persuaded that, in a short time, all difficulties with the Indians will be settled to the satisfaction of the War Department. Energy, promptly called into action, tempered by prudence, and a knowledge of the Indian character, will almost invariably prevent bloodshed, and produce order and obedience.

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No. 42.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office Indian Affairs, Dec. 7. 1825.*

SIR: Your letters of the 18th and 21st of October last, enclosing one from Mr. Edm. Doyle, to you were duly received. The President, to whom the Secretary referred the subject presented by them, has, under the impulse of humanity, ordered that these unfortunate people, the Florida Indian emigrants, be supplied in their emergency with necessary food, but, upon a scale of the strictest economy, and to be accounted for by ration abstracts in your returns. For expenditures thus made, not to exceed five thousand dollars, you are authorized to draw bills, from time to time, on the Secretary of War, which, there being no appropriation for such an object, will have to be paid out of the contingencies of the Indian Department.

It is hoped, however, that my letter of 28th November, written by direction of the Secretary of War, and conveying the information that the Big Hammock, as well as the Big Swamp, is included in the limits assigned to those Indians, will make any farther expenditure unnecessary. But, should you ascertain, beyond doubt, that it will not, and that these people will yet keep falling back upon the settlements, you will inform the Department without delay, that such measures as may appear to be necessary may be taken to meet such an exigency.

I have the honor, &c.

THOS. L. M'KENNEY.

To GEO. WALTON, Esq.

*Sec'y and Act'g Governor of Florida.*



No. 43.

## MIDDLE FLORIDA,

*Tallahassee, December 12, 1825.*

To Colonel McKenney, who is charged with the Indian Affairs in your Department, I have written a particular account of the Indian affairs in this Territory.

The responsibility which the Agent, Colonel Humphreys, has thrown upon me, by not conforming to my instructions, copies of which have been transmitted to Col. McKenney, has not only surprised, but has seriously deranged my whole plan for the government of the Indians in this quarter. I am not informed by the Agent why my instructions were not pursued, or why the Indians were not brought within their limits, although they went to the borders. I am convinced a military force is necessary to bring these people to order and obedience, and I have recommended the establishment of a post on the South frontier of Alachua. My personal influence will very much contribute to effect any order which your Department may require to be executed.

Permit me to suggest, that if Congress should make any arrangements with the Creek nation, so as to remove them entirely, the Seminole Indians would be willing to go with them, and that a treaty might be made with the Florida Indians highly advantageous to the United States. Should such a measure be authorized by the Government, I cannot too strongly urge the appointment of Colonel James Gadsden as one of the Commissioners; he is not only personally acquainted with all the Chiefs, but understands the Indian character perfectly. The Indians on the Appalachicola, whose lands were reserved to them by the late treaty, would no doubt be willing also to emigrate.

I have the honor. &amp;c. &amp;c.

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,

*Secretary of War.*

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No. 44.

## DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office Indian Affairs, Dec. 15, 1825.*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary of War, to state to you, that information has been received at the Department, implicating the methods resorted to by you, to procure the consent of the Florida Indians to the treaty of 18th September, 1823; and that those methods were of a description calculated to terrify the

Indians into a compliance, without which, owing to their settled objection to give up their lands and emigrate, the treaty would not, in all probability, have been concluded.

The Secretary directs that you will, with as little delay as possible, report to him the facts in this case; and state explicitly, whether any resort was had to means, and of any kind, tending to force upon those Indians a compliance with the terms of said treaty.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS L. MCKENNEY.

To His Ex'y WM. P. DUVAL,

Col. JAMES GADSDEN,

BERNARD SEGUI, Esq.

late Commissioners, &c.

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No. 45.

*From Governor Duval to the Secretary of War.*

TALLAHASSEE, December 16th, 1825.

I regret to state that about three hundred Indians have returned from the country assigned to them, and have crossed the Suwannee river. Complaints are daily made to me by the citizens against the Indians. They continue to kill cattle, and steal corn from the settlers, who are now ready to take up arms, and repel the intrusion and outrages of these unfortunate people. I have sent orders to Alachua, to the commanding officer of the militia, not to permit any attack to be made on the Indians for killing cattle, and I hope you will recommend to Congress to make some provision to indemnify the citizens for their losses. I have every reason to believe, that many of the Indians are in a starving condition. I have not heard from the Agent on the subject of the withdrawal of the Indians from his Agency; I fear he has lost all influence over them, and now nothing short of force can restrain them.

If I had the command of two hundred regulars, and was permitted to employ two of the Appalachicola Chiefs, who were once under General Jackson, with a few of their men, I feel confident I could, without the danger of bloodshed, make all the Indians return to their boundary. These people have great confidence in me, yet they fear me as they should; with this force, I pledge myself that the treaty should be carried into complete execution in peace, and to your satisfaction.

The Indians who have recrossed the Suwannee, I have ordered them to be furnished with twenty days rations, and directed them immediately to return back to their lands.

If the Indians are removed from the Big Swamp, Congress must make some provision to feed them until some time in July next, or they will certainly starve.

I must again urge the necessity of establishing a military post on the South frontier of Alachua.

I wait for such orders and directions as you may please to forward.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,  
*Secretary of War.*

No. 46.

*From Thomas L. McKenney to Governor Duval.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,  
*Office of Indian Affairs, December 26th, 1825.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several communications of the 2d and 12th instant, accompanied by an explanatory map of the country ceded to the Florida Indians, and a letter to you from J. Belloure, complaining of depredations upon his property by a party of the emigrant Indians; also certain copies of letters and instructions to the Agent, Colonel Humphreys, all which have been submitted to the Secretary of War.

I am directed by the Secretary, in reply, to state, that he had received from the late acting Governor Walton, certain communications relating to the issuing of rations, &c. and a copy of one from Charles Pindar, to Colonel Walton, the complexion of which, taken altogether, was not satisfactory. No reply has been made to Colonel Walton. It was delayed in the expectation that something further might happen in regard to these communications, or at least that the aid extended to the Indians, on the representations which had been made of their starving condition, might produce quiet, and a state of permanent harmony, when the instructions conveyed in that correspondence, implicating some of the parties, would have formed the subject of a special inquiry.

The points of difficulty appear to be two:

First. The location of the Indians by the Agent, upon lands (called the Big Swamp,) not included in the extension of the Northern boundary.

Second. The over-issue of rations, by the Agent, in violation of positive instructions.

In regard to the first, the Secretary of War directs, however exceptionable he esteems the location, under all the circumstances, the case to be, that the Indians be permitted to occupy both the Big Swamp and the Big Hammock. The Big Hammock of right, and by virtue of a formal and legal extension of the Northern and West-

ern line; the other by courtesy and for the time being, subject to the future directions of the President. You will explain this to them fully; and give them the option to accept of this right of temporary occupancy, or go, at once and locate permanently within the limits assigned to them; or, if they would prefer it, to lands which the Government is willing to assign them West of the Mississippi.

The subject of your recommendation for the establishment of a military post on the South frontier of Alachua, will be considered by the Secretary.

The Secretary directs that you proceed with the examination of the complaints in regard to the rations. This subject having been entrusted to you, under instructions from the Department—no one, it is presumed, can so well determine upon the abuse, which is implied in the several communications before me, or a violation of your instructions by the Agents.

The Secretary of War directs that you make a thorough examination into *every* branch of the subject; connected with the procuring and issuing of the rations, and especially into that referred to by Colonel Walton, on Mr. Pindar's letter to him, and report the same with your own opinions, to the Department.

You will order the Sub-Agent to such point on the Appalachicola, as you may esteem to be best.

The answers to your queries are these:

1st. If in the examination now ordered, you shall find the delivery of rations by Mr. Chaires was *indispensable* to the Indians, and that they could not have been sustained without them, you will pay for them.

2d. The excess is to be allowed on the same principle.

3d. All the accounts of the Agent are to be submitted to your examination, on which you will make such decisions, as well in regard to numbers, as other things, as you may esteem it proper to make, to be submitted to the Department for its final determination.

It will be proper to ascertain the loss complained of by Mr. Beloure, and report it to the Department with your own opinion of its fairness. The Indians, under the act of 1802, will be held responsible for such acts—and so you will inform them.

Your views in regard to the mode of paying the Indians their annuities, are in strict accordance with my own. There can be no doubt of the evils which result to these unfortunate people, from the application, by themselves, of their annuities; nor that the amount goes directly to the venders of spirituous liquors, who beset the annuity grounds. Annuities are a curse to the Indians, rather than a blessing, unless their application be made for them. Humanity requires, that you take measures to obtain their consent to allow the annuity to be paid to them in goods, suited to their wants. But if they insist on having the money, we have no right to refuse it.

Very respectfully, &c.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY.

To His Excellency, W. M. P. DUVAL,  
Governor of Florida.



No. 47.

## DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*Office of Indian Affairs, December 27th, 1825.*

SIR: Your letter to the Secretary of War of the 12th instant, is received. You will receive with this his reply to your several communications, also those previously forwarded by Colonel Walton.

The subject of a further emigration of the Florida Indians you were authorized to propose to them, in the letter of yesterday. As a preliminary, you will ascertain their dispositions in regard to this step, and report them, together with an estimate of the cost of emigration. It is not necessary to make their removal turn on the contingency of that of the Creeks.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obed't servant,

THOS. L. MCKENNEY.

To His Excellency WM. P. DUVAL,

*Governor of Florida.*

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No. 48.

TALLAHASSEE, January 2, 1826.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the petition of the Seminole Chiefs, drawn up at their special request, and delivered in General Council. This contains strong evidence that the Agent must have discharged his duty, as far as he had the power and means, as a faithful guardian of these unfortunate children of the wilderness.

Understanding that some remonstrance or petition has been forwarded to your Department, calculated to injure the character of the Agent, Colonel Humphreys, which certain individuals have secretly promoted by art and intrigue, and who are frequently advising the Indians contrary to talks of the Agent; these clandestine attempts, will, I feel assured, have no influence in your Department. I flatter myself that when the causes of complaint shall be strictly examined, that it will be found that the Agent has incurred the enmity of many who abuse him, for discharging only his duty.

Much of dissatisfaction has arisen from the Indians leaving their location, and roaming over the country: but the Seminole nation is composed of many lawless Indians from the Creeks and other tribes, and they cannot be restrained within the limits assigned them by treaty, unless a post is established on the South frontier of Alachua. You may rest assured that the Indians must, in many instances, actually starve, or steal from the white people, unless the Govern-

ment shall make some provision for their support until the next crop can be gathered.

The Appalachicola Indians, who are industrious, and have excellent lands, are also in the most deplorable condition: this is owing to the river overflowing its banks late last summer, by which their entire crops were destroyed. Gentlemen of high respectability, who saw their fields before the inundation, assured me the crops were in fine order, and as promising as any in Florida. The Appalachicola Indians have good houses and fences, and bid fair to advance in civilization. They have had less assistance from the Government than any other Indians, for they did not need it. I earnestly recommend them to the Government for some relief in their present distress; and I will, during the present year, often attend at their towns, and see that they cultivate their fields well. I hope the humanity of Mr. Barbour will be exerted in the behalf of these suffering people, and that he will apply to the President to recommend to Congress to make such provision as they may consider adequate to their actual existence.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM P. DUVAL.

Col. THOMAS L. M'KENNEY.

*Office Indian Affairs.*

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(Accompaniment No. 48.)

We, the undersigned Chiefs and head men of the Florida or Seminole nation of Indians, in behalf of ourselves and people, all of whom are now present, wishing to evince our satisfaction with the manner in which the kindness of the Government of the United States has been manifested towards our nation, since we placed ourselves under its protection, by the treaty concluded at Moultrie Creek, September 18, 1823; and being desirous, at the same time, to acknowledge the fidelity and punctuality with which that treaty has been fulfilled, on the part of the United States, embrace the opportunity of this first general meeting in Council since the treaty aforesaid, to declare freely, voluntarily, and in perfect sincerity, that we feel bound by every principle of right and justice, to observe and perform, with exactness and integrity, the obligations assumed by us in the treaty.

The first year's annuity promised us by that treaty, we have received; the rations promised have been regularly furnished, plentifully, and to our entire satisfaction; the stock cattle have also been received, the smith's shop, and other conveniences guaranteed, have been duly provided; and in fact, every thing we had a right to expect from the Government of the United States, we have enjoyed. Under these circumstances, did not a desire which we ardently entertain to continue on terms of perfect friendship with the white inhabitants of the Territory, prompt us to such a course of conduct as will conduce to preserve the good understanding which we now have with those in-

habitants, we are urged to it by regard for good faith and a proper sense of the obligations we owe.

Induced by the foregoing considerations, as well as by the conviction that it will tend to sustain and promote the prosperity of our nation, we hereby pledge ourselves to use our utmost and constant exertions to discountenance and check any thing on the part of our people, calculated to cause a breach of the amicable relations at this time existing between ourselves and our white brethren, or withdraw from us the protection and friendship which we fully appreciate, of the Government of the United States.

Much, however, as we have reason to be, and are satisfied with the justice and kindness thus far practised towards us, we cannot, nevertheless, witness, without extreme pain and apprehension, the prospect before us, that our people must necessarily, owing to the almost entire failure of our present year's crops, greatly suffer from hunger, unless the hand of relief is extended by our Great Father, the President of the United States, on whose benevolence and parental regard we place the most assured reliance; we hereby solicit our Father, the Governor of the Territory, whose kindness we have always experienced, to procure for us that relief which our case requires, without which we must inevitably feel from want.

We are aware that we may not claim, as a right under the treaty, that issues of provisions should be continued to us beyond the period therein specified, and therefore, as such, we do not ask it; we only hope that, as by a severe drought which generally prevailed the past season throughout our own territory, and by other circumstances, we are deprived of the usual products of our labor, that provision to supply the deficiency thus created, (until another summer,) may be made by the munificence of the Government of the United States. Should it be thought too much to continue to us the whole ration as given by the treaty, we shall be entirely contented, and eminently benefitted by the corn part of the ration alone, the expense of which we are certain will be considered trifling, when compared with its importance to us.

In making this petition to our Great Father, we feel a perfect confidence that we are addressing one whose ears are never closed against the appeals of distress or the calls of humanity.

[Signed by eighteen Chiefs and Head Men.]

